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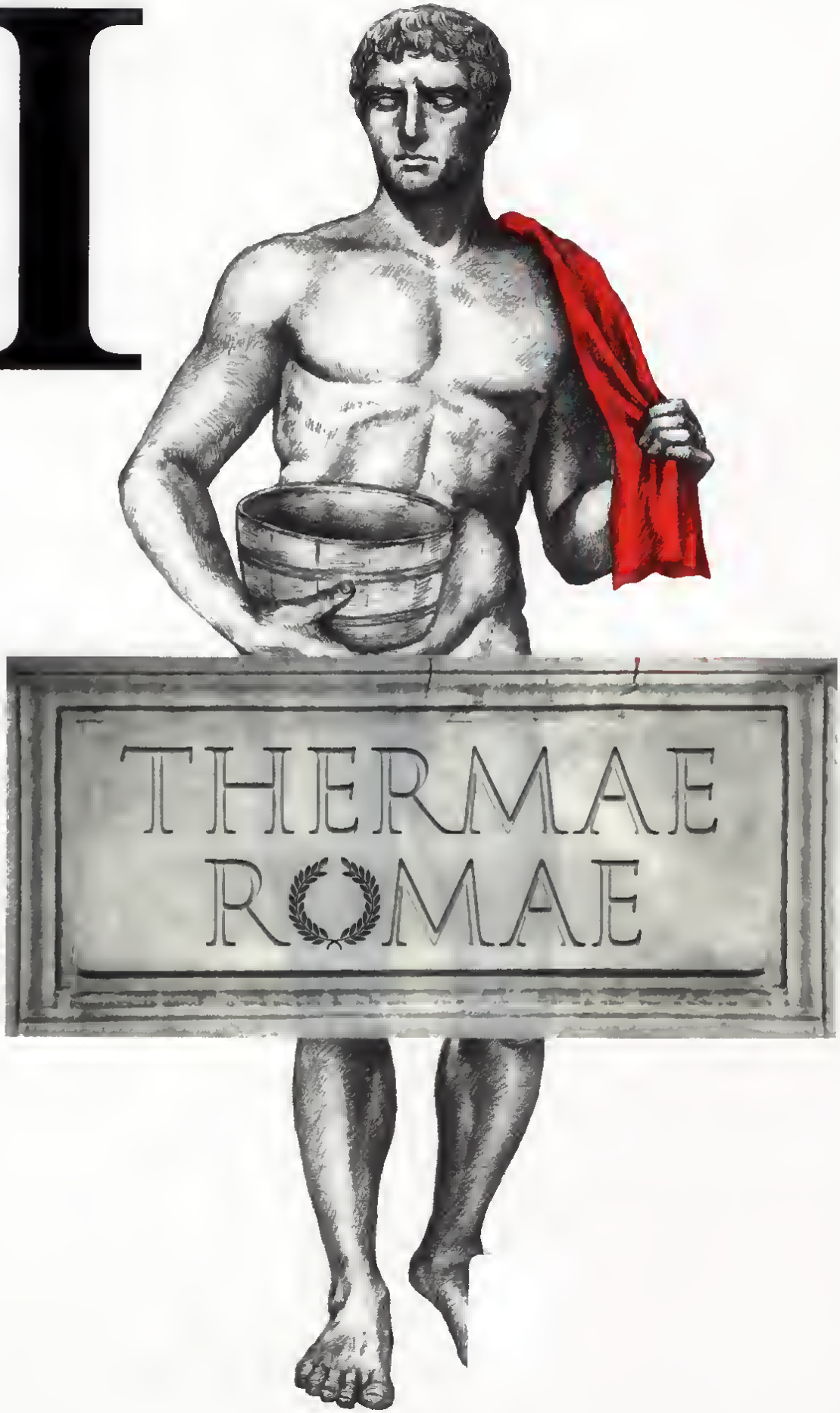

A HISTORICAL COMEDY HIGHLIGHTING HISTORY'S MOST PASSIONATE BATH-LOVERS: THE ANCIENT ROMANS AND THE MODERN JAPANESE!

When Roman architect Lucius is criticized for his "outdated" thermae designs, he retreats to the local bath to collect his thoughts. All Lucius wants is to recapture the Rome of earlier days, when one could enjoy a relaxing bath without the pressure of merchants and roughhousing patrons. Slipping deeper into the warm water, Lucius is suddenly caught in the suction and dragged through the drainage at the bottom of the bath! He emerges coughing and sputtering amid a group of strange-looking foreigners with the most peculiar bathhouse customs . . . over 1,500 years in the future in modern-day Japan! His contemporaries wanted him to modernize, and so, borrowing the customs of these mysterious bath-loving people, Lucius opens what quickly becomes the most popular new bathhouse in Rome—**THERMAE ROMAE!**

MARI YAMAZAKI

was born in Tokyo on April 20, 1967. At age seventeen, she moved to Italy, where she started studying drawing at an art school in Florence. Yamazaki made her manga debut in 1996 with an autobiographical look at her life in Italy. After bouncing around between Japan, the Middle East, and Italy, she finally settled down in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2003. In 2008, she began drawing *Thermae Romae* for the monthly magazine *Comic Beam* on an irregular basis, and the first collected volume was a smash hit upon its 2009 release. In 2010, *Thermae Romae* received the Manga Taisho Award 2010 and the 14th Osamu Tezuka Cultural Prize, Short Story Award.

Mari Yamazaki currently lives in Chicago with her Italian husband and their son.

THERMAE ROMAE

MARI YAMAZAKI

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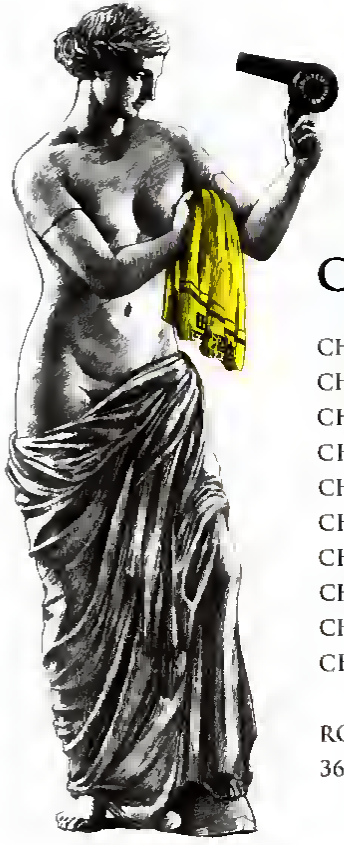

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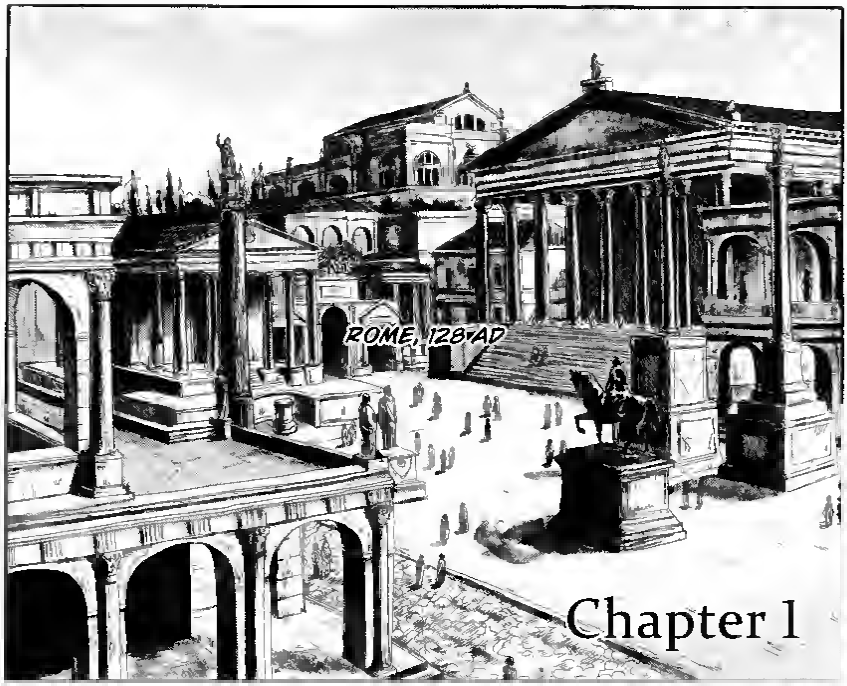
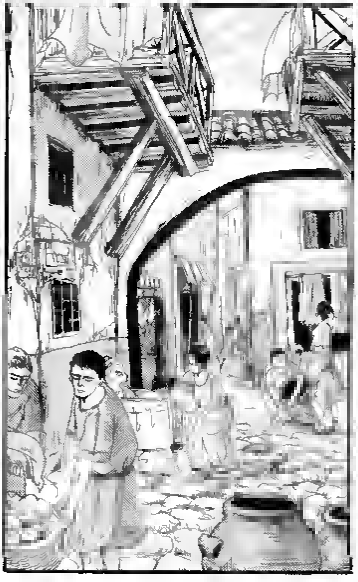
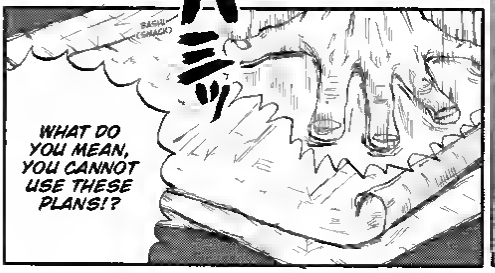
ROME & BATHS. THE LOVES OF MY LIFE
36, 72, 104, 140, 176, 216, 254, 294, 330, 366


ROME, 128 AD
Chapter 1

CHITECTVS




バシッ
(SMACK)
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU CANNOT USE THESE PLANS!?

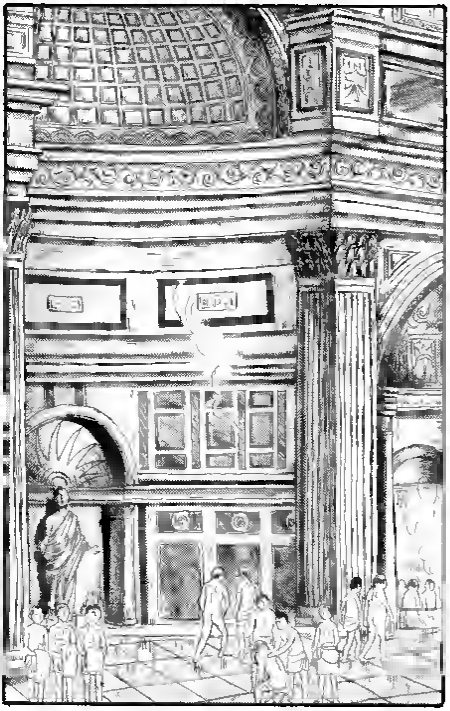
D-DON'T YOU SEE? I'M TAKING THE OPPOSITE APPROACH!
WHY DON'T WE TRY TO RECREATE A FOND, OLD-FASHIONED TIME THAT MODERN SOCIETY HAS FORGOTTEN!?
...WH-WHAT!?
...ROME WANTS SOMETHING NEW, SOMETHING FRESH...
THIS KIND OF PUBLIC BATH HASN'T BEEN POPULAR SINCE LAST CENTURY
I WILL BE BLUNT... YOUR IDEA IS FATALLY ANTIQUATED.
SINCE HADRIAN'S REIGN BEGAN, ALL MANNER OF FRESH AND EXCITING CONSTRUCTION HAS ARISEN—
JUST GAZE OUT UPON THE ROME OF TODAY!
.....
. AND WHAT IS THE LIKELIHOOD THAT YOUR PERSONAL DESIRE IS SHARED BY ALL OF ROME?
I UNDERSTAND YOUR POINT, BUT THIS ARCHITECT'S OFFICE IS RUN FOR BUSINESS, NOT PLEASURE.
TO CREATE SOMETHING SO HALF-BAKED IN SUCH A BOLD ERA IS TO BECOME OBSOLETE
H-HALF-BAKED!?
OUR EMPEROR HIMSELF IS A SKILLED-ENOUGH ARCHITECT TO DESIGN A RE-CREATION OF GREECE'S ACROPOLIS.

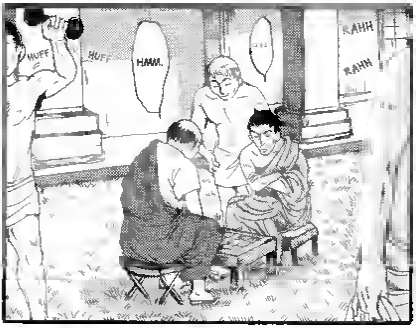
I WENT TO ATHENS TO STUDY THE GREATEST ARCHITECTURE KNOWN TO MAN, AND YOU CALL MY WORK HALF-BAKED!?
THAT IS NOT WHAT I'M SAYING... SIMPLY THAT THIS OFFICE CANNOT AGREE TO IMPLEMENT YOUR DRAFTS ANY LONGER.
MARK MY WORDS: YOU WILL REGRET LOSING MY SERVICES!!
BATAN ISLAND
THAT OLD FOOL!
HUFF HUFF!

...AND THERE IS NO DOUBT ROME HAS NEVER BEEN AS RICH AS IT IS TODAY..
EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS OF ROMAN HISTORY...
HEE HA HA!
HA HA HA!
HOW FAR DO THE BOUNDARIES OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE STRETCH NOW?
ALL MANNER OF MEN CROSS PATHS IN THE STREETS
FOUR- AND FIVE-STORY INSULAE DOT THE CORNERS EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK, STANDING STARK AGAINST THE SKY..
IS THAT YOU, LUCIUS?
OH?
AND THE MORE WEALTHY AND CIVILIZED THE WORLD GROWS, THE HARDER IT IS FOR ME TO LIVE IN IT...

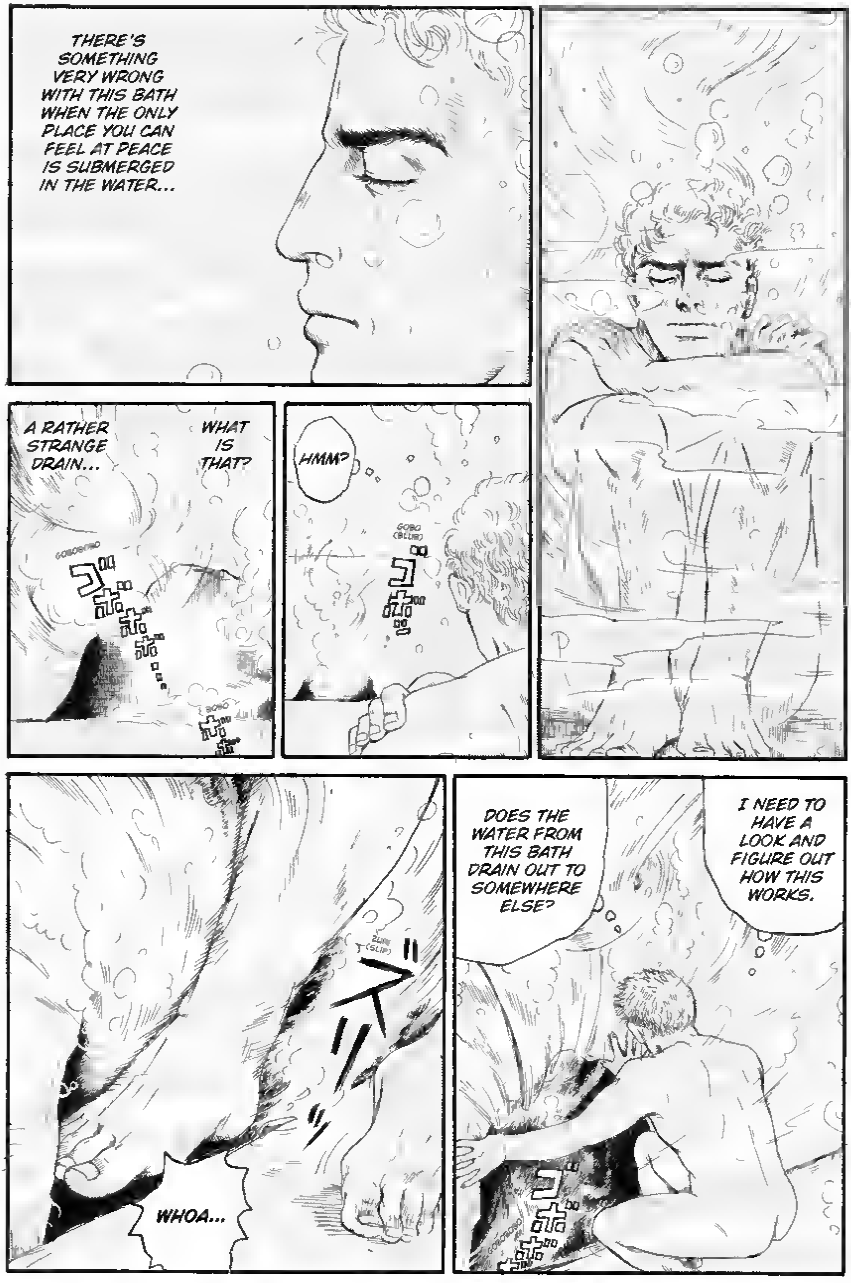
WELL... I'VE GOT PROBLEMS ON MY MIND...
AHA... LET ME GUESS, YOU HAD A FIGHT WITH THE LITTLE LADY?
YOU WANT SOME GRILLED CHICKEN?
HEY! WHY THE LONG FACE, BUDDY!?
.....MARCUS..
NO...
I JUST LOST MY JOB...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, MARCUS. I'VE BEEN BLACKLISTED OUT OF THE INDUSTRY!
THEY'RE ALL OVER ROME THESE DAYS...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST FIND A JOB WITH A DIFFERENT OFFICE!?
HEY, HEY, HEY! YOU'RE AN EDUCATED MAN! WHY WOULD YOU SUBJECT YOURSELF TO THAT KIND OF LIFE!?
I WAS JUST WONDERING IF I SHOULD USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO START A GRILLED CHICKEN BUSINESS..
HEY, I KNOW JUST THE THING! LET'S GO TAKE A BATH. THAT'LL CLEAR YOUR HEAD, YEAH?
C'MON, LUCIUS... STOP SULKING! THERE MUST BE SOME PLACE THAT WILL HIRE YOU!

RAHH
RAHH
RAHH
HUFF
HUFF
WORK THAT SWEAT!




HUFF
HUFF
HMM.
RAHH
RAHH

QUITE A LOT OF DIRT HERE
HA HA
SHA (SURO)
SHA
OOH, I COULD MAYBE GO FOR SOME OF THAT.
.....IT'S ALWAYS SO NOISY IN HERE...
SNACKS!
HAIR REMOVAL!
HAIR REMOVAL!
ANYONE FEEL LIKE A TASTY SNACK!?
I'VE GOT TREATS!
I'LL HELP YOU GET RID OF THOSE HAIRY ARMPITS!
UH, LUCIUS!? HEY!!
..... THE BATH SHOULD BE A PLACE TO RELAX...
RIGHT AWAY!!
HERE, HERE! I'LL TAKE A WAX!
...


THERE'S SOMETHING VERY WRONG WITH THIS BATH WHEN THE ONLY PLACE YOU CAN FEEL AT PEACE IS SUBMERGED IN THE WATER...
A RATHER STRANGE DRAIN...
WHAT IS THAT?
HMM?
DOES THE WATER FROM THIS BATH DRAIN OUT TO SOMEWHERE ELSE?
I NEED TO HAVE A LOOK AND FIGURE OUT HOW THIS WORKS.
WHOA...

WH-WHERE IS THIS INCREDIBLE SUCTION COMING FROM!?
ゴボボボボボボボボボボボ
GWARBLL!?
AND OFF COMES THE WAX!
ベリベリ
ゴボーッ
YEOWWW!
ぐぼぼぼ

GOBOBOBOBO (BLUB)
GOBU (BLUBS)
...THE SURFACE!?
IS THAT..
GWAAHK!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
PWAAH!

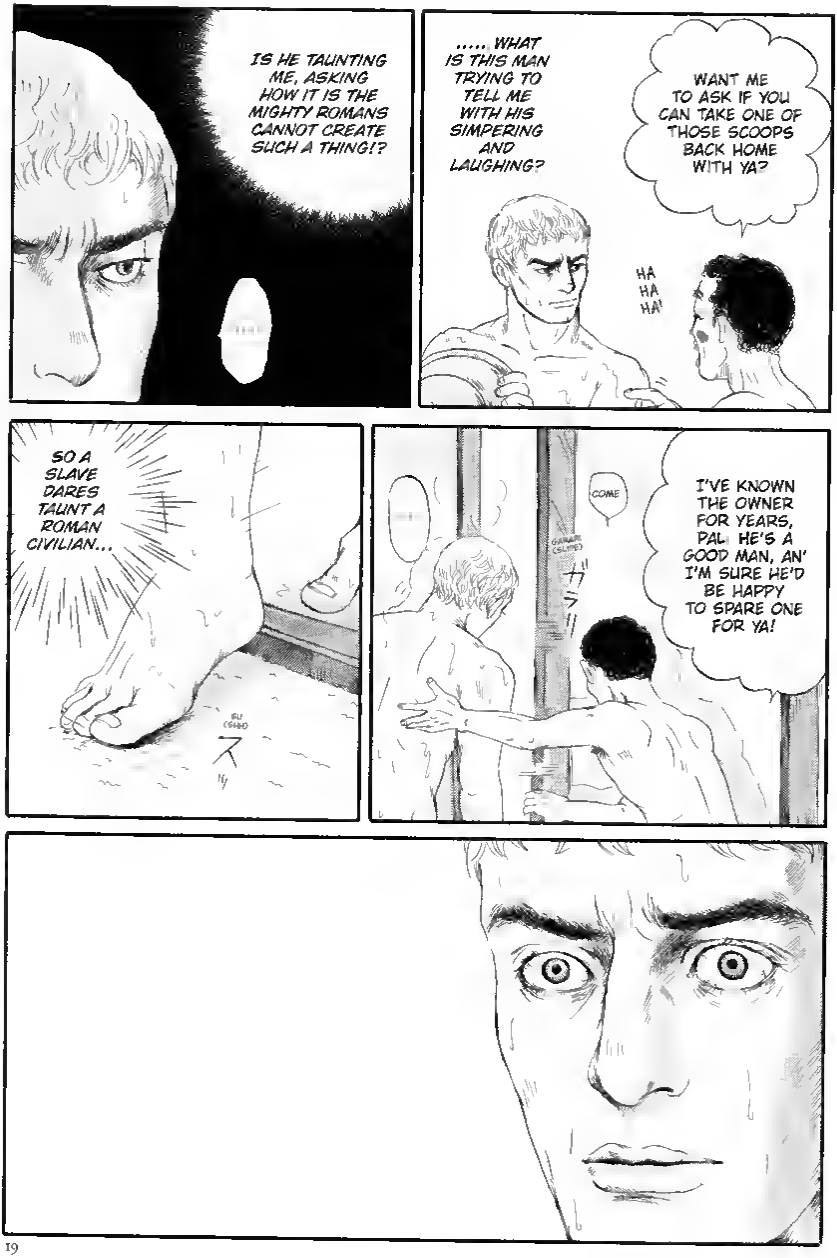
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

SIGN: MIKADO ELECTRONICS
ミカド電気
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
KAIKONIN CHUNTUNO
カッコーン
WHA...?
HUFF
山口理髪店
MIRROR: YAMAGUCHI BARBER

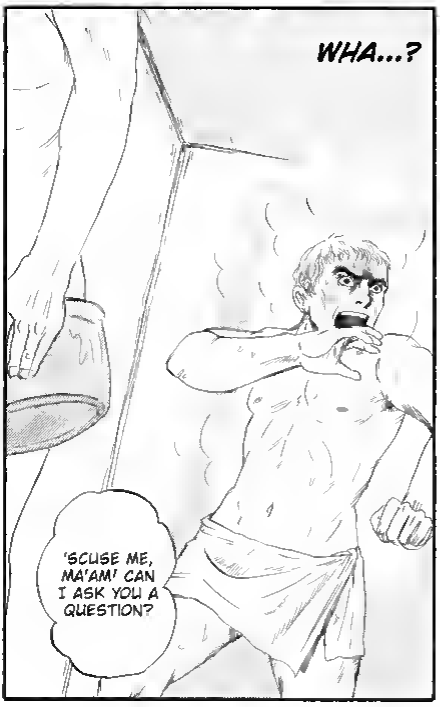
GASP.
WH-WHAT IS THIS PLACE!?
HUFF
ACK!
HUFF
KUIRU (SPIN)
MOUNT VESUVIUS, WHICH DESTROYED POMPEII!!!
IS TH, T..?
IS...
YOU THERE, FOR-EIGNER-SAN...
P-PARDON ME...

.....
?
...HAVE YOU BEEN UNDER THE WATER THIS WHOLE TIME?
I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE YOU EVERYTHING OKAY?
...AND I CROSSED OVER TO THAT BATH WHEN I SLIPPED THROUGH THE CREVICE!
DID HE COME WITH ANYONE?
OH DEAR. I DON'T THINK HE UNDERSTANDS US...
OH, I SEE! THERE MUST BE A PUBLIC BATH FOR SLAVES ADJACENT TO THE BATH-HOUSE...
THEY'RE... NOT ROMAN...
THEIR FACES ARE FLAT...
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE OVEREXPOSED TO THE HOT WATER. DON'T YOU WANT TO GET OUT?
VERY CLEVER...
WHICH WOULD MEAN THAT OUR WATER DRAINS INTO THE BATH OF THESE FLAT-FACED SLAVES...
EXCUSE ME, FOR-EIGNER-SAN.

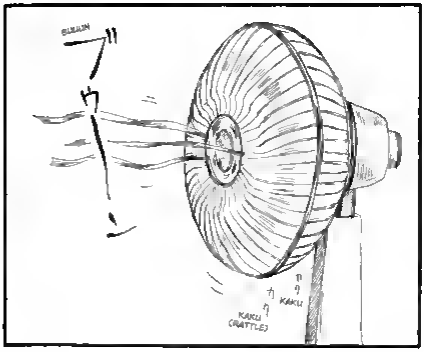
THIS IS LIKELY THE ONLY PLACE A SLAVE CAN RELAX AND BE HIMSELF...
I SUPPOSE HE HAS A POINT..
BISHA (SPLISH)
ZABA (GLOSH)
ARE THEY TELLING ME TO LEAVE SINCE THIS IS NOT A BATH FOR ROMAN CITIZENS?
OUT?
GO
YES?
KAKU
OUT
KAKU (SWISH)
THE FURNISHINGS IN HERE ARE ODDLY ADVANCED AND INTRICATE...
STRANGE...
NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE A JAPANESE BATH BEFORE, HAVE YA?
AND THEY ARE MADE OF A MATERIAL I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE
KYU? (WHO)
SUCH A PRETTY SHADE OF YELLOW

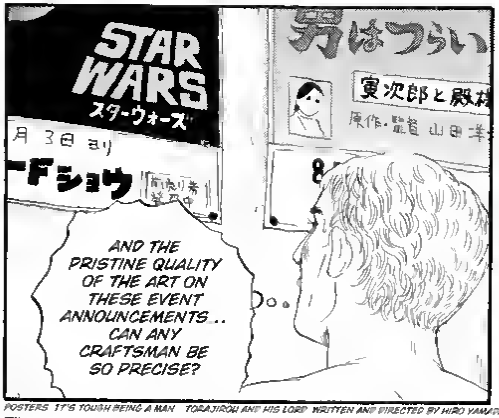

IS HE TAUNTING ME, ASKING HOW IT IS THE MIGHTY ROMANS CANNOT CREATE SUCH A THING!?
..... WHAT IS THIS MAN TRYING TO TELL ME WITH HIS SIMPERING AND LAUGHING?
WANT ME TO ASK IF YOU CAN TAKE ONE OF THOSE SCOOPS BACK HOME WITH YA?
HA HA HA!
SO A SLAVE DARES TAUNT A ROMAN CIVILIAN...
COME
I'VE KNOWN THE OWNER FOR YEARS, PAL. HE'S A GOOD MAN, AN' I'M SURE HE'D BE HAPPY TO SPARE ONE FOR YA!

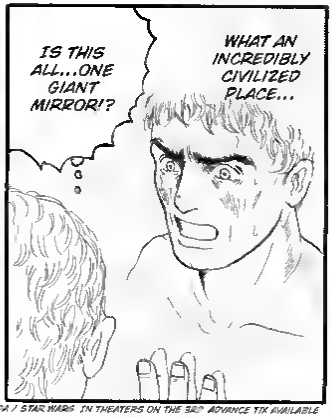
GOOOO (WHIR)
ゴォォ…
OH, SADA-CHAN! HOW ARE YOU?
DOIN' ALL RIGHT
GARA (CLUNK)
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
GARA
ガラ
SURE IS HOT TODAY.
BUUUN (WHIRR)
ブゥーン


WHA...?
'SCUSE ME, MA'AM! CAN I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

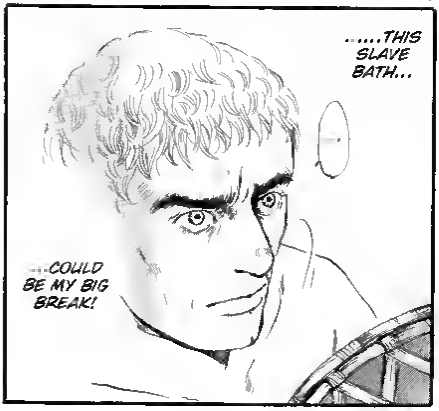
GOOOO
ゴォォォ…


BUUUN
ブゥーン
KAKU (RATTLE)
カタ
カタ

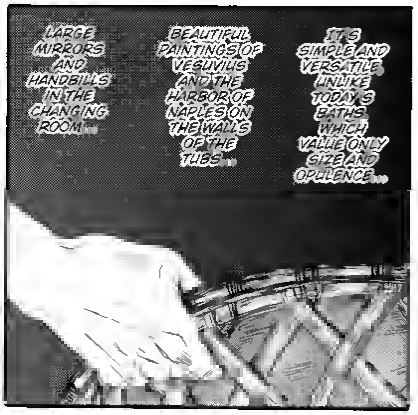

STAR WARS
スターウォーズ
男はつらい
AND THE PRISTINE QUALITY OF THE ART ON THESE EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS... CAN ANY CRAFTSMAN BE SO PRECISE?



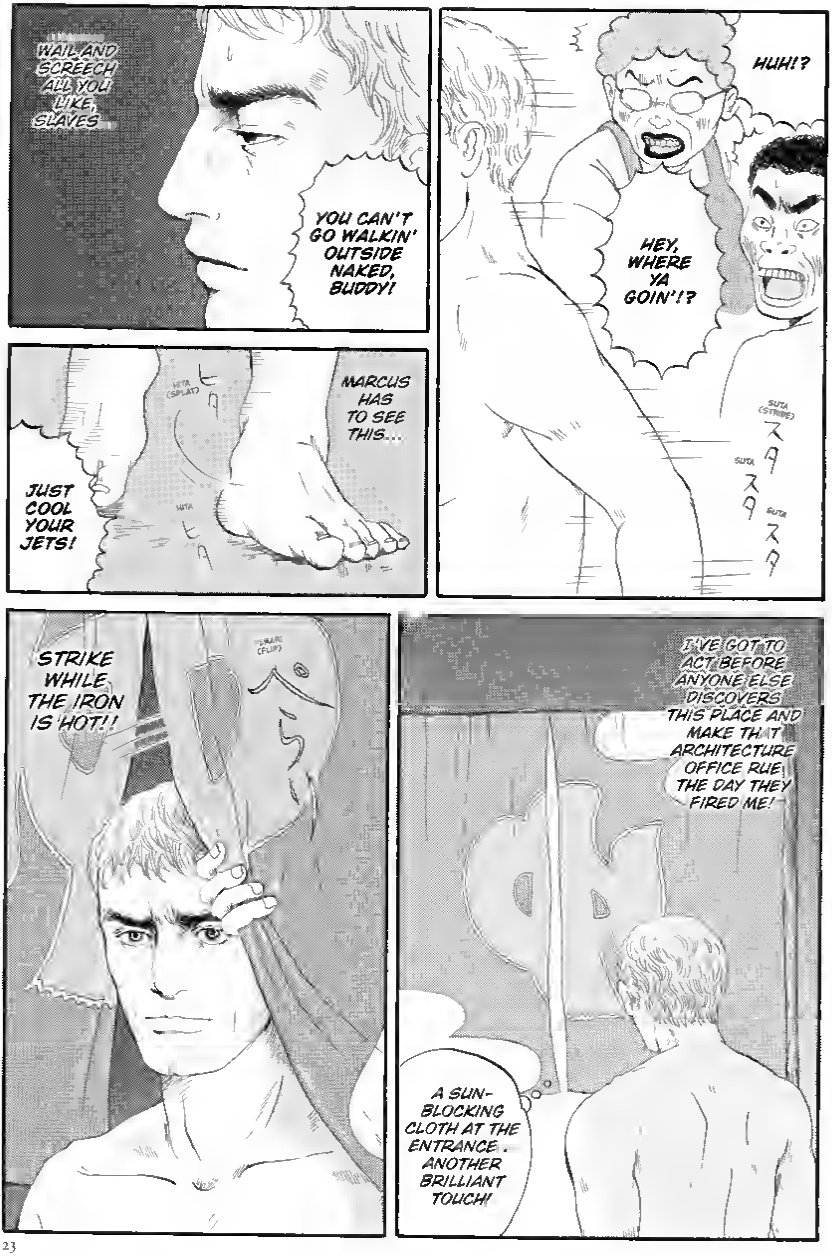
POSTERS: IT'S TOUGH BEING A MAN TORAJIROU AND HIS LORD WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY HIRO YAMADA / STAR WARS IN THEATERS ON THE 3RD ADVANCE TIX AVAILABLE



HMM? WHAT'S UP, PAL? HAVIN' TROUBLE FINDIN' YOUR CLOTHES?
IT'S THE PERFECT FIT FOR MODERN ROME AND ITS DEMAND FOR THE NEW AND FRESH!!
I WANT TO TELL MARCUS ABOUT THIS IDEA RIGHT AWAY


LARGE MIRRORS AND HANDBILLS IN THE CHANGING ROOM...
BEAUTIFUL PAINTINGS OF VESUVIUS AND THE HARBOR OF NAPLES ON THE WALLS OF THE TUBS...
IT'S SIMPLE AND VERSATILE UNLIKE TODAY'S BATHS WHICH VALUE ONLY SIZE AND OPULENCE...

.... .?
FOREIGNER-SAN SAYS HE DON'T KNOW WHERE HIS CLOTHES ARE AT!
MA'AM! HEY, MA'AM!
HAVE YOU SEEN 'EM?
DUCERE AMICUM MEUM POSSUM?
HUH!?
LOOK, BUDDY, I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOUR CLOTHES ARE!
BUT THEY MUST ALSO ACCEPT THAT BEING A PART OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE MEANS THAT ROME HAS THE RIGHT TO SHARE IN THEIR CULTURE'S GIFTS!
IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT THESE FLAT-FACES TREASURE THEIR BATHING CULTURE.....
IS HE AFRAID HIS BATHHOUSE'S STYLE WILL BE MIMICKED AND STOLEN...!?
I WAS ONLY ASKING IF I COULD BRING MY FRIEND TO SEE THIS PLACE. WHY IS HE SO PANICKED...?
OH DEAR. I WOULDN'T KNOW. I JUST TOOK OVER FOR MY HUSBAND A FEW MINUTES AGO.
HE WENT OFF TO VISIT THE PACHINKO PARLOR.
UH-OH

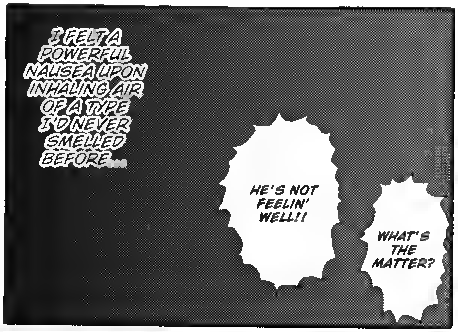

WAIL AND SCREECH ALL YOU LIKE, SLAVES
YOU CAN'T GO WALKIN' OUTSIDE NAKED, BUDDY!
HUH!?
HEY, WHERE YA GOIN'!?
SUTA (STRIDE)
SUTA
SUTA
MARCUS HAS TO SEE THIS...
JUST COOL YOUR JETS!
STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT!!
I'VE GOT TO ACT BEFORE ANYONE ELSE DISCOVERS THIS PLACE AND MAKE THAT ARCHITECTURE OFFICE RUE THE DAY THEY FIRED ME!
A SUN-BLOCKING CLOTH AT THE ENTRANCE. ANOTHER BRILLIANT TOUCH!

OH! HEE HEE
GOOD GRIEF!
ブルルル!!
(株) 引池園芸

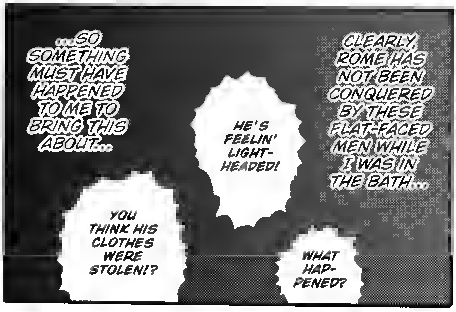
ブオオオオ

C'MON, BUDDY! I KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YA! JUST STEP BACK INSIDE FOR A SECOND!
WE'LL TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AROUND FOR YOUR CLOTHES, ALL RIGHT!?

パパ
ブオオ
ビー


I FELT A POWERFUL NAUSEA UPON INHALING AIR OF A TYPE I'D NEVER SMELLED BEFORE...
HE'S NOT FEELIN' WELL!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

UH-OH! YOU FEELIN' ALL RIGHT!?
URGH!


...SO SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED TO ME TO BRING THIS ABOUT...
HE'S FEELIN' LIGHT-HEADED!
CLEARLY, ROME HAS NOT BEEN CONQUERED BY THESE FLAT-FACED MEN WHILE I WAS IN THE BATH...
YOU THINK HIS CLOTHES WERE STOLEN!?
WHAT HAP-PENED?

...THEN WHAT WILL BECOME OF ME!?
IF I AM UNABLE TO RETURN HOME...
HEY, BUDDY! BUDDY!!

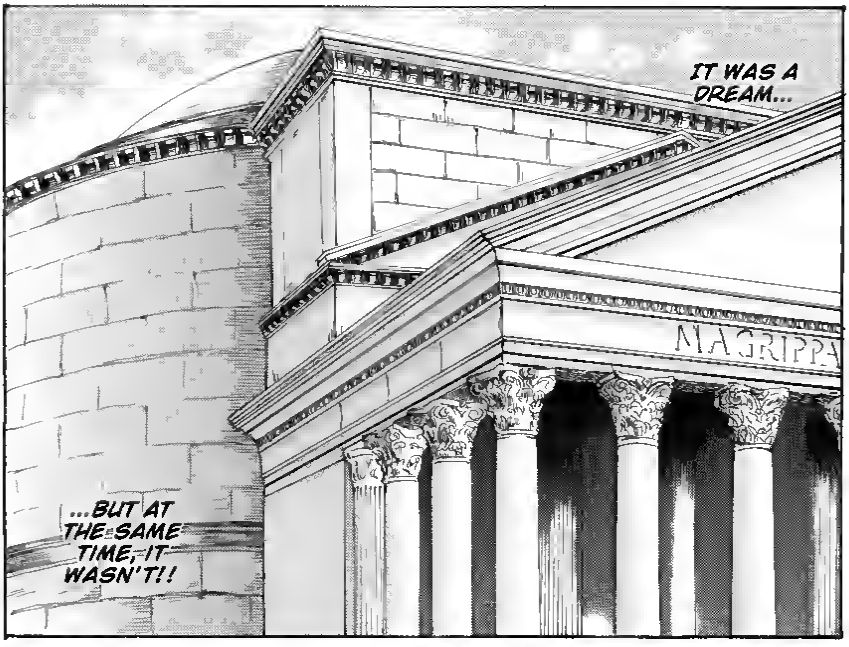
MAYBE HE HAD SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT IN HIS CLOTHES?
...POOR FELLA SEEMS REAL TORN UP ABOUT IT.

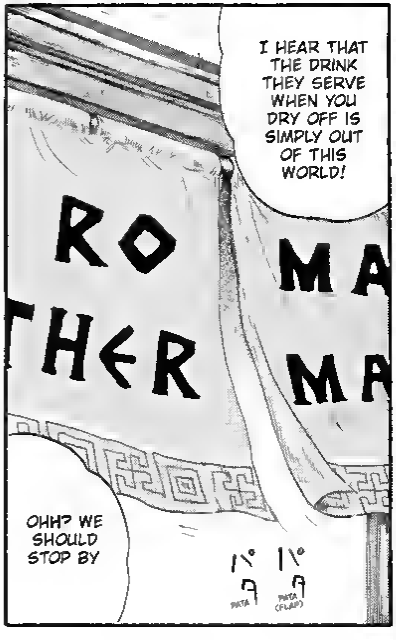
IT AIN'T A REAL TRIP TO A JAPANESE PUBLIC BATH WITHOUT ONE OF THESE BABIES!
GO ON, DOWN THE HATCH!
HERE!
FRUIT-FLAVORED MILK!
フルーツ
@BOTTLE FRUIT
IT'S A DRINK...
KAAAH! DAMN, THAT'S GOOD!
ごくっ
GOKU
ごくっ
GOKU
ごくっ
GOKU
ごくっ
GOKU (GULP)
HERE, THIS ONE'S YOURS! UNCAPPED AND EVERYTHING, PAL!
I SUPPOSE HE DRANK IT TO SHOW ME IT'S NOT POISONED
TRY IT! YOU'LL FEEL BETTER!
SUPPOSE (THINKING)
GOKU
WELL .. I MIGHT AS WELL SLAKE THIS DREADFUL THIRST...

AND SO COLD AND SWEET!!
フルーツ
IT'S DELICIOUS !!
HOPEFULLY THIS'LL CHEER YOU UP A BIT, TAKE YOUR MIND OFF YOUR TROUBLE!
HEH HEH HEH HEH
THIS SWEET-NESS IS ALMOST LULLING MY BRAIN INTO A DREAMY SLEEP..
A SOFT, GENTLE TASTE THAT SEEMS TO SEEP INTO MY BODY, STILL WARM FROM THE BATH...
AND COLD AS SNOW...
IT TASTES AS THOUGH THE JUICE OF SWEET, TEMPERATE FRUIT WAS ADDED TO COW'S MILK...
HEH HEH HEH
IS THIS TRULY A DRINK OF OUR WORLD!?
HUH?
HEH
YOU LIKE THAT, HUH? WANT ANOTHER?

HE'S COMING TO.
HEY! WAKE UP!!
LUCIUS!!
..
.....
..HUH? WHERE ARE...THE FLAT-FACED SLAVES?
ARE YOU OKAY, LUCIUS!?
YOU WERE DOWN ON THE BOTTOM OF THE BATH FOR MINUTES!

WAS IT..
..ALL A DREAM..?
HERE!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? DRINK THIS WATER AND COME TO YOUR SENSES! THE BLOOD'S RUSHED TO YOUR HEAD!!
LUCIUS!
KORU (SKOLL)
KON (COLLINS)
KON


IT WAS A DREAM...
...BUT AT THE SAME TIME, IT WASN'T!!


I HEAR THAT THE DRINK THEY SERVE WHEN YOU DRY OFF IS SIMPLY OUT OF THIS WORLD!
OHH? WE SHOULD STOP BY

AH— YOU MEAN THE ONE WITH THE PAINTING OF MOUNT VESUVIUS ON THE WALL?
HEY, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE NEW BATHHOUSE THAT OPENED AROUND HERE?

RVM
GKADIA
DIVM
HEY, I JUST SAW THAT PLAY!
OOH! THESE ARE THIS WEEK'S EVENTS, AREN'T THEY!!?
AND THE SLAVE AT THE COUNTER WILL WATCH THEM FOR YOU!
AHH...SO I AM TO PLACE MY CLOTHES IN HERE WHILE I BATHE?
CVSTOS
MOUNT VESUVIUS AND THE HARBOR OF NAPLES... AND NOTHING SAYS NAPLES LIKE THOSE PINE TREES!
I LIKE IT
THAT'S A REAL NICE TOUCH.
GET IN LINE, GET IN LINE!

WAI
ONE PLEASE
WAI
NO CUTTING IN LINE!
BOTTLES OF COW'S MILK WITH FRUIT NECTAR! LIMITED TO ONE PER PERSON!
GACHA
GACHA
GACHA
WELL DONE, LUCIUS! THE PLACE IS PACKED TO THE SEAMS!!

IT'S NOT FAIR TO MY FRIEND MARCUS, BUT THERE'S JUST NO WAY I CAN EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED TO ME...

ONE DAY YOU WERE OUT OF WORK AND DOWN ON YOUR LUCK, AND NOW YOU'RE THE TALK OF THE CITY FOR YOUR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU!?
.....!
HUH?!

AHH...
BESIDES, IT'S NOT AS THOUGH I UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING MYSELF...
MASTER LUCIUS! WE'LL NEED TO BUY ANOTHER COW IF WE ARE TO KEEP UP WITH THE DEMAND FOR MILK!

HOW DID THE DRINK GET SO COLD IN THAT OTHER WORLD...?
IT'S DAMNABLY HOT TODAY.. THIS WOULD BE PERFECT IF IT WERE A BIT COLDER
THEY ARE CHILLED IN THE RESERVOIR, BUT THAT'S THE BEST I CAN DO
...BUT EVEN ROME'S BEST CRAFTSMEN CAN ONLY CREATE A CRUDE FACSIMILE...
FOR EXAMPLE, THIS JAR MADE IN THE OTHER WORLD IS FRIGHTENINGLY PRECISE AND PERFECT...
ONLY THE TOP LAYER PEELED OFF ON THIS ONE...
AGH! MY FINGER POPPED THROUGH!
...IT WAS NOT POPULAR WHEN IT CAME TIME TO OPEN THEM...
PERAPI (PEEL)
BOZAP (GLUNK)
DOUBLE-PACKED PAPYRUS
I ALSO TRIED MAKING A SEAL TO KEEP THE CONTENTS OF THE BOTTLE FROM SPILLING, BUT...
IT SEEMS THERE IS MUCH I HAVE YET TO LEARN FROM THEM...
THWUP
THWUP
SCARY, THOSE FLAT-FACES...
BY THE WAY, LUCIUS! ABOUT THE BATHHOUSE WHERE YOU PASSED OUT...
...TO OPEN THE BOTTLE WITH A "THWUP!"
BUT THAT FLAT-FACED MAN USED SOME SMALL TOOL...
HERE YA GO!
THWUP

?
...
WHAT'S WRONG, LUCIUS?
WHAT!?
THEY FOUND A HUGE HOLE IN THE LARGEST BATH, SO IT'S SCHEDULED TO BE DEMOLISHED!
HEY!
LUCIUS! WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
I SIMPLY MUST RETURN TO AT LEAST FIND OUT HOW THAT "THWUP" WORKED!!

ROME & BATHS, THE LOVES OF MY LIFE

The ancient Roman workday began at sunrise and ended at about one o'clock in the afternoon, at which point they spent their time on lunch, or an afternoon nap, or a trip to a public bath. When you observe that any ancient Roman ruin, no matter how small, contains some sign of a public bath, it drives home how similarly important the concept of public bathing was to them as it was to the Japanese just a few decades ago. Submerging themselves in hot water was a part of their daily life.

The cost to bathe was incredibly cheap compared to the rest of their economy, as far as we understand, so all but the terribly impoverished could bathe with ease. And when I say everyone, I mean everyone, from slaves to average citizens to the rich to the emperor. The way that all of these people could mingle in the nude while bathing was doubtless a powerfully democratic sight...though the rich and powerful could certainly afford personal baths at their own estates, meaning there was likely little mixing of the classes at that status.

However, it is known that some wealthy Romans were escorted to public baths by a cadre of slaves that performed various tasks at the bathhouse. Perhaps it seemed like a waste to bathe in a cramped personal bath when there were fantastic public facilities where one had room to relax, food and drink to buy (such as watered-down wine), and the ability to meet and talk with others.

The bathhouse in the remains of Hadrian's private estate. (Tivoli, Italy)

The Romans agreed that no matter what might happen in society, when we are naked in the bath, all men have the right to relax together.

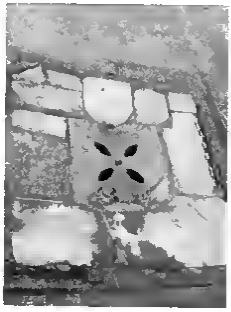
I once went to a hammam, a Turkish steam bath that has a long history, in the Middle East. When I went inside and saw the local women, who normally wear full-body black robes that leave only their eyes uncovered, frolicking and laughing in the nude, it broke all the tension I was feeling.

Perhaps shared nakedness in the presence of hot water is a basic principle of peace.

By the way, the house in Portugal where I live now has no bathtub. When I had someone come by to examine the possibility of installing one, they said it would break through the floor.

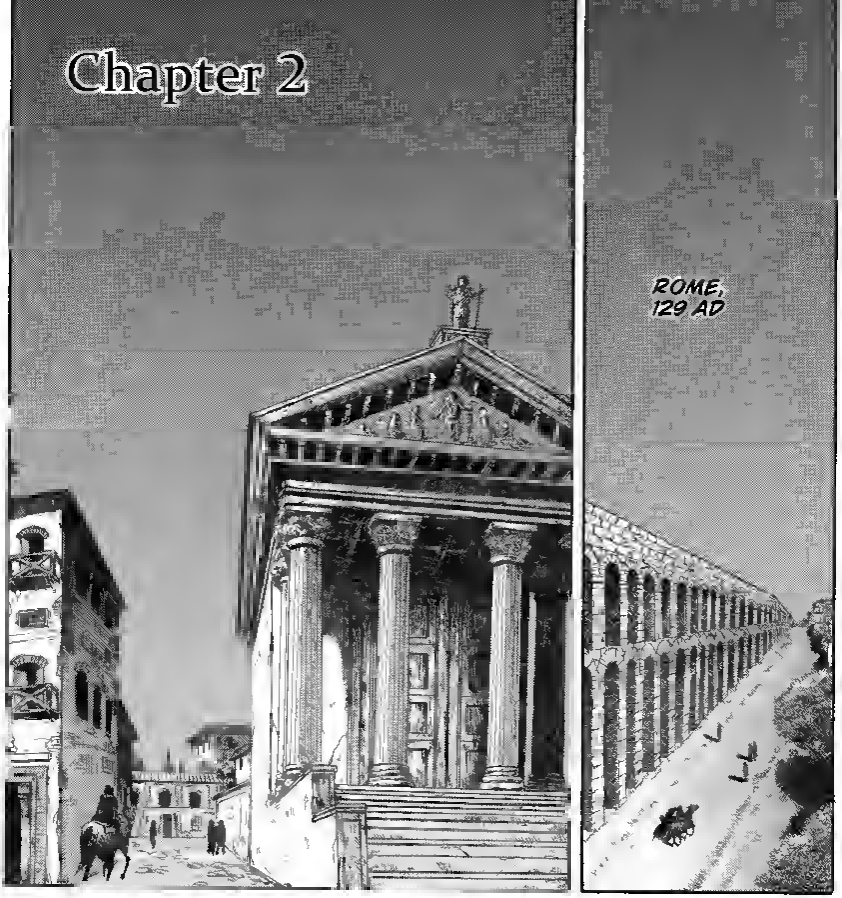
But unable to give up on the idea of being able to relax in a hot bath, I went to a home appliance center, bought a plastic baby tub, and put it in my shower stall. I fill it up with water, squish my body into an "h" shape, and desperately try to pretend I'm bathing. It's a ridiculous sight that I hope no other living soul ever sees, but I just can't help myself. And I have to imagine that if it wasn't me in this situation, but a Roman living two millennia ago, he or she would do the exact same thing.

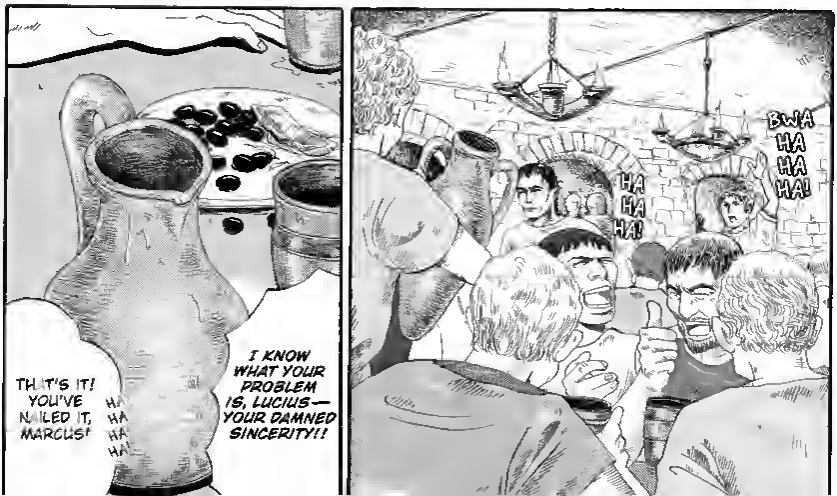
A sewer drain from ancient Rome.
(Italica, Spain)

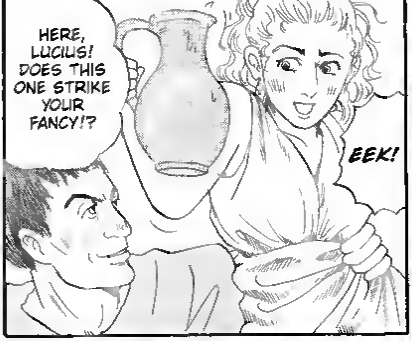


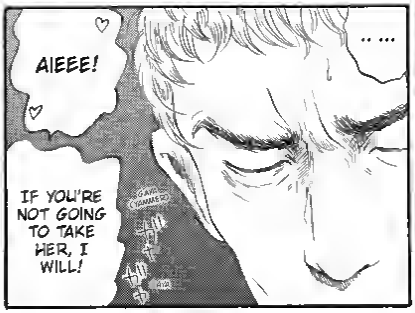
A public bath drain.
(Tivoli, Italy)

Chapter 2

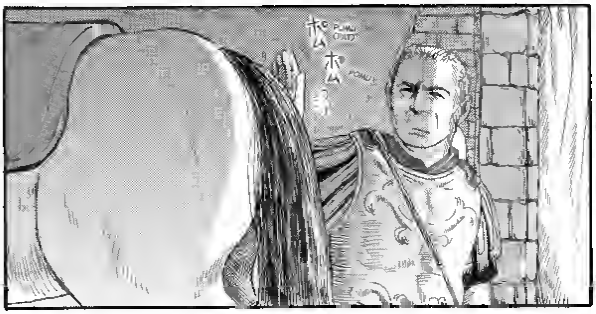

ROME,
129 AD

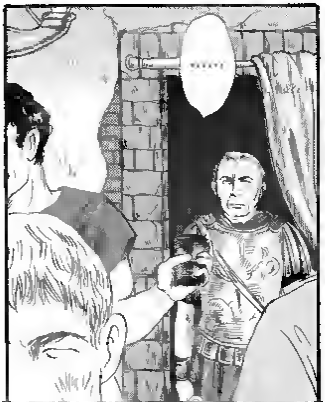

THAT'S IT! YOU'VE NAILED IT, MARCUS! HA HA HA HA!
I KNOW WHAT YOUR PROBLEM IS, LUCIUS— YOUR DAMNED SINCERITY!!
HA HA HA!
BWA HA HA HA!


HERE, LUCILIUS! DOES THIS ONE STRIKE YOUR FANCY!?
EEK!


AIEEE!
.. ...
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE HER, I WILL!

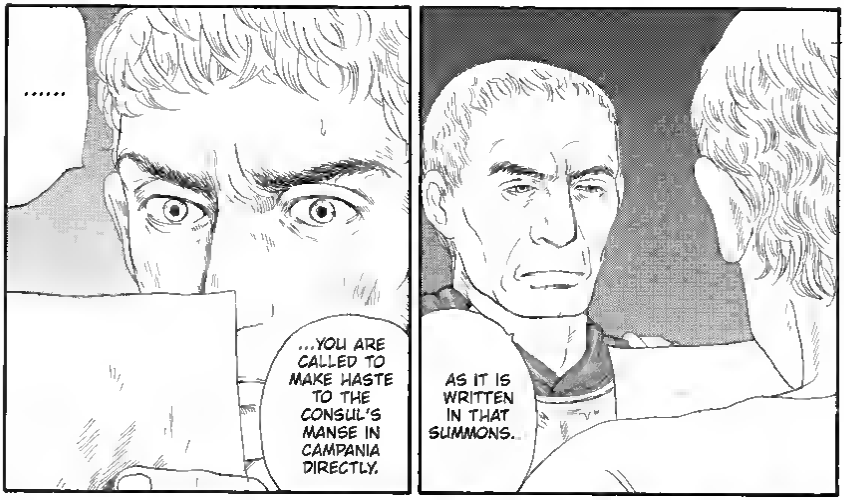
.....I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU DIDN'T MEDDLE IN MY AFFAIRS.
SEE HOW DEPRESSED HE BECOMES AFTER A FIGHT WITH HIS WIFE?
YOU KNOW MY REMEDY IN TIMES LIKE THIS? GO OUT AND FIND A GIRL TO TAKE MY MIND OFF MY TROUBLES!

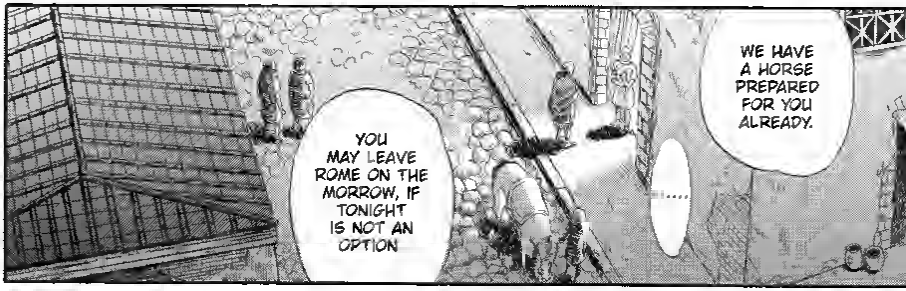


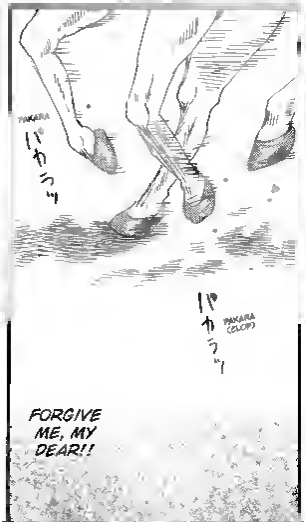

.....

HERE IT IS...

LUCIUS MODESTUS.
LUCIUS MODESTUS, THE ENGINEER! COME FORWARD, IF YOU ARE PRESENT!!
ENGINEER LUCIUS MODESTUS!!
I AM...
...LUCIUS MODESTUS...
I AM AN AGENT OF CONSUL LEPIDUS.
IS LUCIUS MODESTUS IN THE ROOM!?
I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM THE CONSUL HIMSELF.
...?
A LET-TER...?


.....
...YOU ARE CALLED TO MAKE HASTE TO THE CONSUL'S MANSE IN CAMPANIA DIRECTLY.
AS IT IS WRITTEN IN THAT SUMMONS..


YOU MAY LEAVE ROME ON THE MORROW, IF TONIGHT IS NOT AN OPTION
WE HAVE A HORSE PREPARED FOR YOU ALREADY.
.....


PAKARA
PAKARA (CLOP)
FORGIVE ME, MY DEAR!!

.....THIS IS ONLY GOING TO MAKE THINGS WORSE BETWEEN ME AND MY WIFE...

WHAT IS IT? WHAT HAP-PENED!?
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON, LUCIUS!?
TO-MOR-ROW

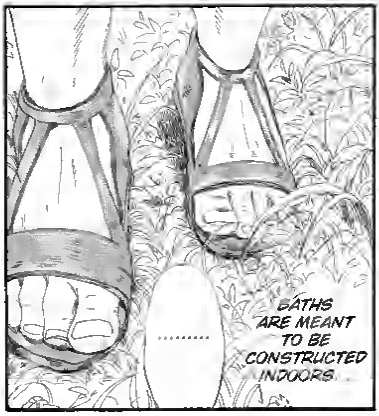
ALL CITIZENS OF ROME OUGHT TO OBEY THE LAW OF THE LAND.
I CANNOT REFUSE A SUMMONS FROM A CONSUL!
CON-SUL...
AHH ..
THE MASTER AWAITS INSIDE.
FORGIVE ME FOR CALLING YOU ON SUCH A LONG JOURNEY!
SO YOU ARE LUCIUS, THE MASTER ARCHITECT OF BATHS..

I WOULD LIKE YOU TO BUILD ME AN OUTDOOR BATH FOR THIS HOUSE..
...I HAVE AN URGENT REQUEST TO MAKE OF YOU.
AS I WROTE IN MY SUMMONS..
I WAS DEEPLY STRUCK BY THE NOVEL CONCEPT OF GAZING UPON A LARGE AND GRAND MURAL AS I SOAKED.
ISN'T THAT MOUNT VESUVIUS!?
OHH!
A FEW MONTHS AGO, WHEN I WAS STILL ABLE TO WALK ABOUT, I HAPPENED TO VISIT A BATH IN ROME THAT YOU DESIGNED...
!!
GAKKON (TALKING)
ガッコン
PALLAS!!
MAS-TER?
OPEN THOSE SHUT-TERS!

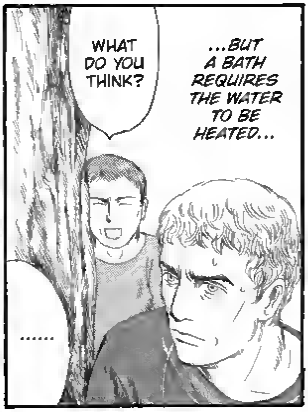
I GREW UP ON THE SIGHT OF VESUVIUS, RIGHT HERE ON THIS ESTATE
HA-HA... THAT'S THE REAL THING...
L-LOOK AT THAT!!
I DO NOT HAVE LONG TO LIVE...
KOFF
KOFF
...SO I HOPE TO MAKE MY FEW REMAINING DAYS ENJOYABLE ONES.
I WANT TO COMBINE MY FAVORITE MOUNTAIN AND MY FAVORITE ACTIVITY.
IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN GRANT A DYING MAN HIS FINAL WISH?
ENGI-NEER LU-CIUS ...!!

WE HAVE LET THEM GROW WILD ON THE MASTER'S ORDERS.
AN OUTDOOR BATH!? THAT BATH I BUILT IN ROME SEEMS TO HAVE GIVEN THE CONSUL A NEAR IMPOSSIBLE IDEA...
THE PLANTS HERE ARE QUITE OVER-GROWN...

A POOL THAT HOLDS WATER COULD BE BUILT OUT OF DOORS EASILY ENOUGH...
THIS ONE?
BEYOND THAT TREE IS A PARTICULARLY GOOD VANTAGE POINT OF THE MOUNTAIN.
YES!


.....
BATHS ARE MEANT TO BE CONSTRUCTED INDOORS.

YES, I SEE...
IT IS QUITE AN ARRESTING VIEW...
I CAN UNDERSTAND THE CONSUL'S WISH TO BATHE AND GAZE UPON THE MOUNTAIN ITSELF, RATHER THAN A MERE PAINTING.


WHAT DO YOU THINK?
...BUT A BATH REQUIRES THE WATER TO BE HEATED...
.....

THERE IS FRESH WATER THAT SURFACES HERE WE NEED NOT DRAW WATER FROM THE AQUEDUCT
.....BUT...
THERE'S A SPRING!?
WHAT!?
YES.
DOES THE MANSION GET ITS WATER FROM THE AQUA AUGUSTA THAT RUNS THROUGHOUT CAMPANIA?
I SEE...
HOWEVER, IT WILL BE QUITE A TASK TO DRAW THE WATER HERE, BUILD A STRUCTURE, AND BOIL THE WATER...
YES, IT DOES.
AND IT WASN'T QUITE THAT POWERFUL IN THE PAST...
MY, MY... THIS IS A RATHER IMPRESSIVE FLOW.
HMM!?
IF WE CAN DRAW THE WATER HERE
THIS LOOKS LIKE ENOUGH FRESH WATER THAT WE WON'T NEED TO CONNECT TO THE AQUEDUCT...
HMM
BUNKO GIRLISHO
BUNKO GIRLISHO

IT'S SAID THIS IS NOT ORDINARY WATER, AS THERE ARE NO FISH LIVING IN IT...
.....
APPARENTLY THE SPRING APPEARED WHEN VESUVIUS ERUPTED FIFTY YEARS AGO...
IT'S WARM!!
BASA (FLOP)
バサ
...BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE ONE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
I'VE HEARD OF A NUMBER OF PLACES THROUGHOUT ITALIA WHERE UNDERGROUND RESERVOIRS ARE HEATED BY VOLCANOES...
HMM...THE WATER GETS HOTTER THE CLOSER YOU GET TO THE MIDDLE!!
L-LUCIUS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
GURA (SLIP)
ぐらっ
AH!
KOORO (SPINNER)
コロコロ
I'D LIKE TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCE OF THE SPRING...

WHOA!
ばしゃん
MASTER LUCIUS!!
THE TEMPERATURE IS EVEN HOTTER AT THE BOTTOM...
THIS SPRING IS QUITE A BIT DEEPER THAN I THOUGHT...
I'VE GOT TO GET UP TO THE SURFACE

I CAN'T SEE THE SURFACE!!
MMH...?
IS THIS DUE TO THE MAGMA OF THE VOLCANO...?
BLUB!
NO .. IT'S JUST CLOUDY WATER.
HUFF
HUFF
REGU-LUS...
BWAAH!
ZABAAN (SPLASH)
HAHH!
AT ANY RATE, I CAN USE THIS SPRING FOR A BATH!
AH, HERE'S THE SURFACE!

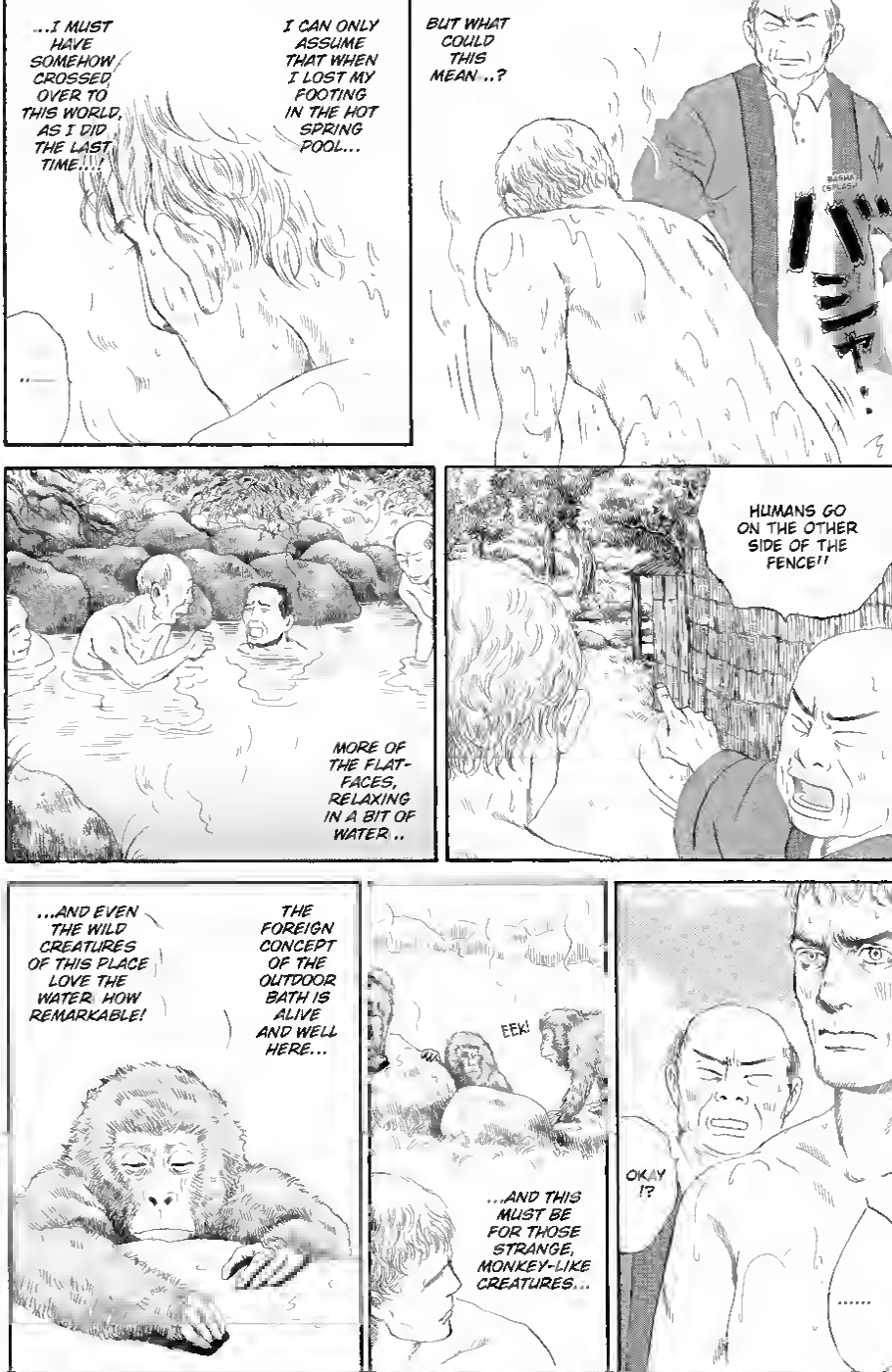
SAWA (SWISH)
サワ
SAWA
サワ
....
WITH WATER THIS TEMPERATURE, WE WON'T NEED SLAVES TO STOKE THE FIRES!!
HUFF
THIS IS INCRED-IBLE!!
HUFF
SAWA
サワ
SAWA
サワ
REGULUS?
HEY.
SAWA
サワ

SNORT!
フンッ

AAAAH!!
わあーっ
AU—
WAH—
AH—
ビク
BIKU CRINGE
BIKU CRINGE
EEK EEK EEK!
バシャ
BASHA
バシャ
BASHA
キャー
YAAACK!
GET OUT OF HERE!!
WH-WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE WATER!?
YOU INSOLENT CREA-TURES!!
BASHA CRPLAMBO
バシャッ
WHA—!?
バッ!
BA CRAP

HEY! KNOCK IT OFF! STOP THAT!
SHOO! SHOO!!
ARGH!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
GYA!!
EEK EEK!
EEK EEK!
GO ON, MOVE IT!
THIS IS THE MONKEY BATH! HUMANS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BATHE IN IT!
SIGN: "PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE MONKEYS — MGMT
EXCUSE ME, SIR! YOU CAN'T BE IN HERE!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

THIS MUNKEE BATH! OKAY!?
HEER! MUNKEE OWN-LEE!!
IS THIS FELLOW ONE OF THEM__?
AH, SO YOU DON'T KNOW JAPA-NESE
YOU FOR-EIGN?
..
YOU MEAN...
THIS IS A MONKEY BATH, TO DRAW TOURISTS!
YOU GO THERE!! HUMAN BATH!!
...
OKAY!?
YES, HE IS! HE'S CLEARLY ANOTHER OF THE FLAT-FACES!!
THE FLAT-FACED MEN!
TO THE ADVANCED CIVILIZATION OF THE FLAT-FACED MEN!?
I HAVE RETURNED!?
ZABA (SPLASH)


...I MUST HAVE SOMEHOW CROSSED OVER TO THIS WORLD, AS I DID THE LAST TIME!!!
I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT WHEN I LOST MY FOOTING IN THE HOT SPRING POOL...
BUT WHAT COULD THIS MEAN...?
MORE OF THE FLAT-FACES, RELAXING IN A BIT OF WATER..
HUMANS GO ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE!!
...AND EVEN THE WILD CREATURES OF THIS PLACE LOVE THE WATER. HOW REMARKABLE!
THE FOREIGN CONCEPT OF THE OUTDOOR BATH IS ALIVE AND WELL HERE...
EEK!
...AND THIS MUST BE FOR THOSE STRANGE, MONKEY-LIKE CREATURES...
OKAY !?
.....

WHERE ARE YOUR CLOTHES!?
I CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND STARING!! I MUST SOAK IN AS MUCH OF THIS BATHING CULTURE AS I CAN BEFORE I GO BACK TO ROME.....!!
HEY, WAIT! FOREIGNER-SAN!
FUC?
"FUKU"?
Y'KNOW, CLOTHES ..?
YUKATA PATTERN: KOTOBUKI-YA
.....
HERE, USE THIS YUKATA!! JUST MAKE SURE YOU GIVE IT BACK!!
WHAT IS THIS "FUC" HE SPEAKS OF?
AHH, FORGET IT.
HANG ON A SEC!

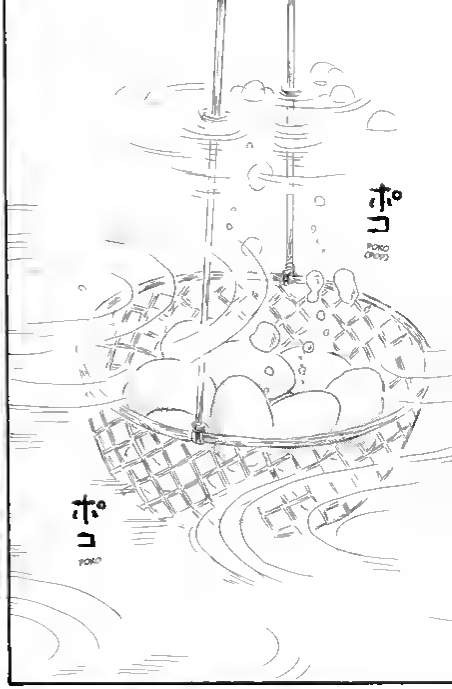
YUKATA PATTERN: KOTOBUKI YA
THESE PEOPLE SEEM TO HAVE MORE RESISTANCE TO THE NAKED BODY THAN WE ROMANS DO...
...BUT THEIR SOFT AND PLEASING TOGA FEELS GOOD ON MY STEAMING BODY...
I WISH THAT I HAD THE TIME TO EXAMINE EVERY MINUTE ASPECT OF THEIR BATHING CULTURE.
THESE FLAT-FACES PURSUE THE PLEASURES OF LIFE JUST AS PASSIONATELY AS ROMANS...
SO THIS...
...IS THE OUTDOOR BATH FOR HUMANS.

SURE SEE A LOT MORE FOREIGN TYPES THESE DAYS.
BWA-HA-HA, NO KIDDIN'!
WHOA, GET A LOAD OF THIS GUY! LIKE A GREEK STATUE COME TO LIFE!
THERE IS AN OPEN GRANDEUR TO THIS SETTING THAT COULD NEVER BE EXPERIENCED IN AN ARTIFICIAL BATH SURROUNDED BY WALLS.
SUCH A MAGNIFICENT AESTHETIC SENSE THESE PEOPLE HAVE TO BUILD A BATH IN SUCH A SCENIC LOCALE. THE GREEKS THEMSELVES WOULD BE IMPRESSED
I CANNOT REST ON MY LAURELS!!
DESPITE THEIR SEEMING UTTERLY INFERIOR TO ROMANS BY APPEARANCES ALONE, THESE MEN CANNOT BE TAKEN LIGHTLY

WHAT IS THAT?
ぼ〜ぼ〜ぼ〜
JOBOBO (GLOB)
DOES HE KNOW HOW IT WORKS?
HA HA HA!
UH-OH, HERE HE COMES!
JABU (GLOB)
I MUST EXAMINE EVERY UNCIA
WHEN THE BATH IS OUT OF DOORS LIKE THIS, WHERE DOES THE WATER DRAIN. .?
JABA (GLOB)
PERHAPS IT COMES FROM THAT ANIMAL BATH...
I SEE... THEY ARE USING THIS SMALL CANAL TO DRAW THE HOT WATER FROM WHERE IT SPRINGS
IT'S A VERY PRIMITIVE STRUCTURE
.....
IT DRAINS INTO THE STREAM!
!!
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, I'D SAY
I THINK IT'S THE FIRST TIME THIS FELLA'S EVER BEEN IN A JAPANESE HOT SPRING?

...AND ALL THE WHILE, THESE FLAT-FACES HAVE CREATED THIS FANTASTIC, INNOVATIVE OUTDOOR BATH WITH THE SIMPLEST AND MOST BASIC OF PRINCIPLES!
WE ROMANS HAVE BEEN SO PROUD OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR AQUEDUCTS AND GREAT WORKS...
BOKO
BOKO
BOKO (PLUNK)
BUT LEARNING THE BEST OF OTHER CULTURES IS FOR THE SAKE OF ROME'S FUTURE!
NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO FEEL THAT MY ROMAN PRIDE HAS BEEN SHAKEN TO ITS CORE!
GU (CLENCH)
WHAT IS THAT...?
BOKO
IS THIS ANOTHER OF THEIR SPECIAL TOOLS?

EGGS!?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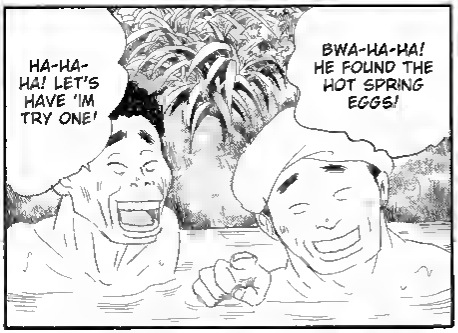
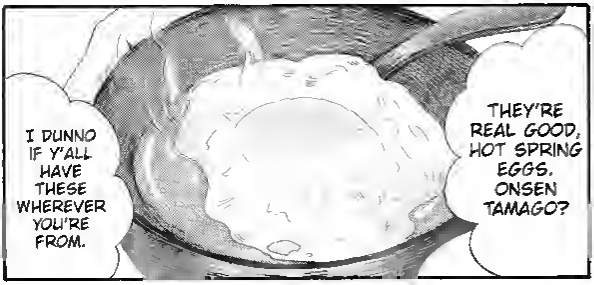

HA-HA-HA! LET'S HAVE 'IM TRY ONE!
BWA-HA-HA! HE FOUND THE HOT SPRING EGGS!


I DUNNO IF Y'ALL HAVE THESE WHEREVER YOU'RE FROM.
THEY'RE REAL GOOD, HOT SPRING EGGS. ONSEN TAMAGO?

HEY, FOREIGNER-SAN! HERE, THIS ONE'S FRESH COOKED FOR YA!!

IT DOESN'T SEEM POISON-OUS.
I SUPPOSE THIS MUST BE THE EGG BOILED IN THE HOT WATER...

IS HE URGING ME TO EAT?
STICK THE SPOON RIGHT INTO THAT SUCKER.

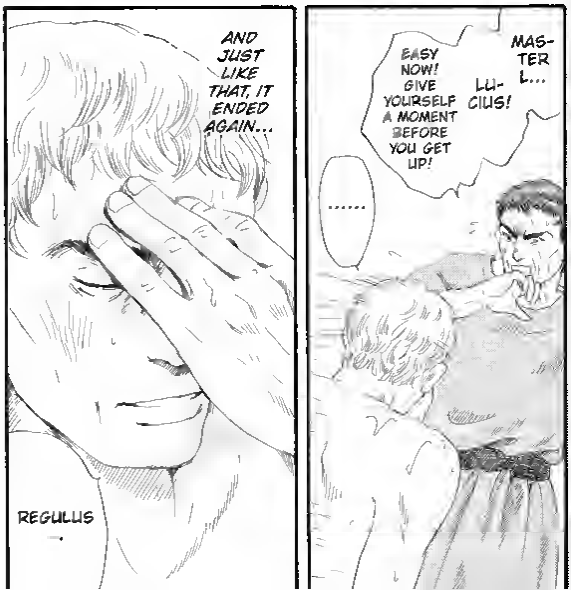
IT'S DELI-CIOUS ...
SU (SUBO)
HMM... COULD I PERHAPS HAVE ANOTHER ONE?
WELL, AIN'T THAT NICE
HERE, WE GOT SAKE TOO.
WHAT TEXTURE IS THIS!? IT'S ALMOST HALF-BOILED, BUT NOT QUITE..
I'VE NEVER HAD SUCH A DELICIOUS BOILED EGG IN ALL THE ROMAN EMPIRE!
I THINK HE LIKES THE EGG! BWA-HA-HA!
FOREIGNER-SAN, YOU GOTTA TRY THIS!
THIS IS HOW TO ENJOY THE OPEN AIR BATHS OF JAPAN!
A DRINK!?
IT HAS A STRONG FERMENTED SMELL.
KUN (SNIFF)
DOWN THE HATCH!
KUN
IT AIN'T POISON.

IT GOES PERFECTLY WITH THE EGG!!
FAN-TASTIC!
ごくり
GULP
I HAD ALWAYS ASSUMED THAT ONLY ROMAN CITIZENS KNEW ALL OF THE WORLD'S PLEASURES...
OH!?
LOOK AT HIM GO! HE CAN HOLD HIS LIQUOR!
HAVE ANOTHER, FRIEND!!
...BUT I COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE WRONG...
I'M LOSING MYSELF IN THESE NEW SENSA-TIONS...
HERE, TRY ANOTHER EGG!!
I FEEL SUCH AN INCREDIBLE PEACE...
AHHH...
BWA-HA-HA! NOW HE'S LOOKIN' MORE THE PART!
I THINK HE'S REALLY ENJOYIN' IT.

HA HA!
WA HA HA!
GO ON, EAT UP!
A ROMAN SHOULD NEVER LOSE HIS BALANCE OF MIND, NO MATTER THE SITUATION...
MY MIND HAS LOST ALL SENSE OF JUDG-MENT!!
SIGH..
THIS IS NO GOOD!
...DON'T STARE AT MA TEATS LIKE THAT! I FEEL ALL SELF-CONSCIOUS.
FOR-EIGNER-SAN...
IT SEEMED FOR A MOMENT AS THOUGH THAT FELLOW HAD RATHER LONG BREASTS... OR WAS IT MY IMAGINA-TION?
BWA-HA-HA! HE DIDN'T THINK YOU WAS A WOMAN!
NOT... AGAIN...
HUH...?
I WISH I COULD COME TO THIS COUNTRY TO STUDY..
THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WH T I MIGHT LEARN FROM THEM...
...IS THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE JUST AS SHARP AND SENSIBLE AS ROMANS.
THE ONLY THING I'M SURE OF..
SORRY TO BE SUCH AN OL' HAG! GA-HA-HA HA-

COME TO YOUR SENSES!
MASTER LUCIUS! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

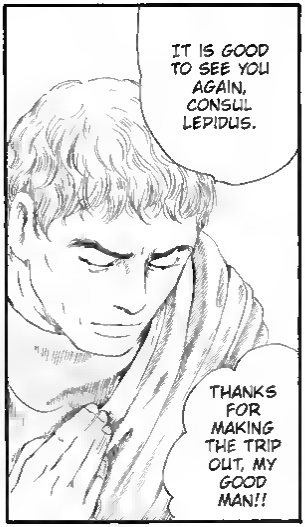
AH...


AND JUST LIKE THAT, IT ENDED AGAIN...
REGULUS
.
EASY NOW! GIVE YOURSELF A MOMENT BEFORE YOU GET UP!
MAS-TER LU-CIUS!
.....

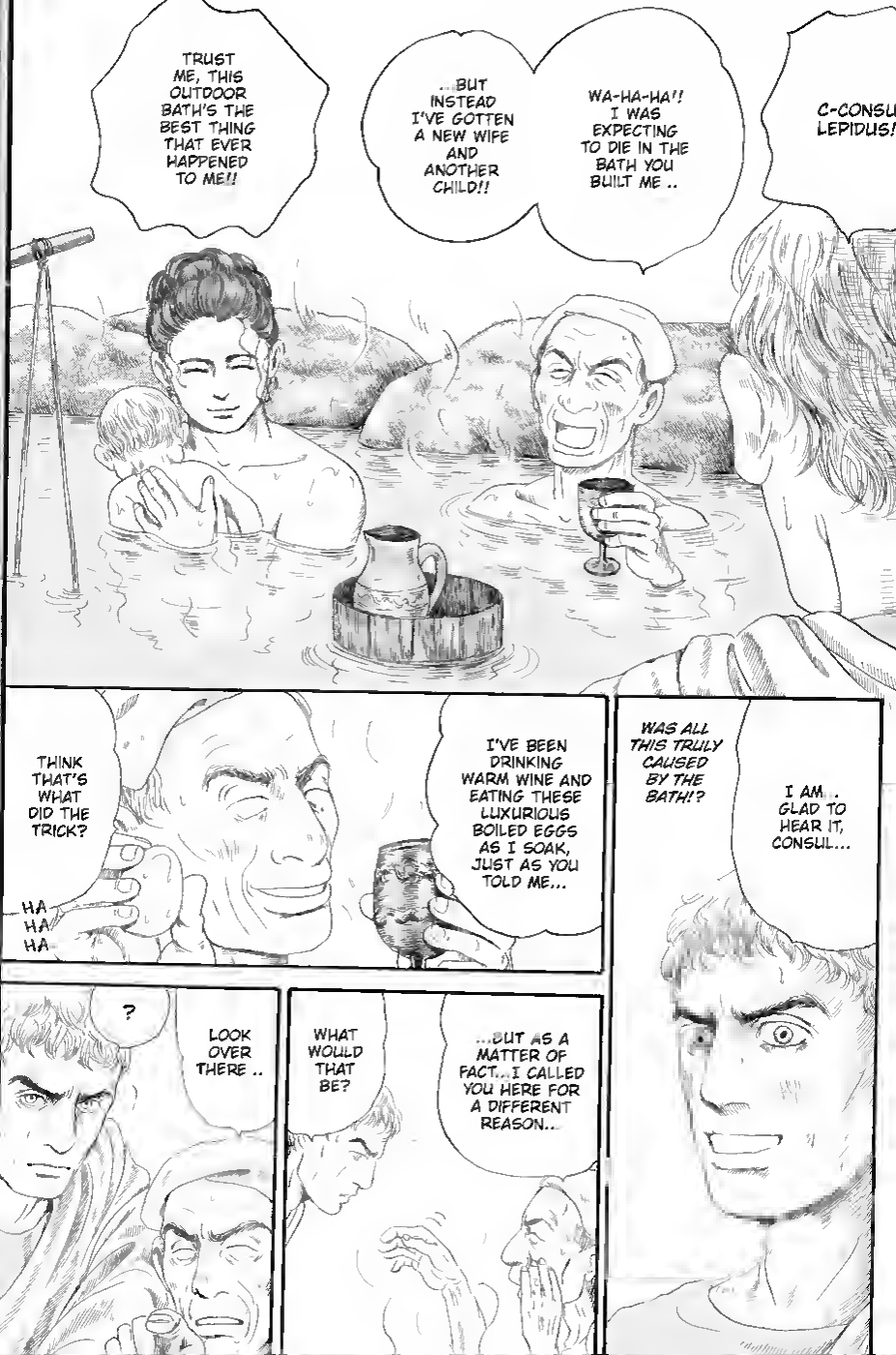
STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT!!
Y-YES, AT ONCE!!
HUH ...!?
WE MUST MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS OUTDOOR BATH AT ONCE!!
ALIQVANTO POST
(SOME TIME LATER)
BRR HRR HRR...
CONSUL! ENGINEER LUCIUS HAS ARRIVED FROM ROME.
GOOD! SEND HIM THROUGH!

HIS HEALTH AND TEMPERAMENT HAVE VASTLY IMPROVED SINCE HE STARTED USING THE OUTDOOR BATH YOU BUILT FOR HIM, LUCIUS...
...HOW HAS CONSUL LEPIDUS'S HEALTH BEEN SINCE I CAME LAST?

.....
MY MASTER HAS BEEN ENDLESSLY PLEASED WITH THE FRUITS OF YOUR CONSIDERABLE GENIUS.


IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, CONSUL LEPIDUS.
THANKS FOR MAKING THE TRIP OUT, MY GOOD MAN!!

BUT FOR MY PART, I DID NOTHING BUT MIMIC WHAT I SAW IN THAT OTHER WORLD...
RIGHT HERE, LUCIUS!!


TRUST ME, THIS OUTDOOR BATH'S THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME!!
...BUT INSTEAD I'VE GOTTEN A NEW WIFE AND ANOTHER CHILD!!
WA-HA-HA!! I WAS EXPECTING TO DIE IN THE BATH YOU BUILT ME ..
C-CONSU LEPIDUS!
THINK THAT'S WHAT DID THE TRICK?
HA HA HA
I'VE BEEN DRINKING WARM WINE AND EATING THESE LUXURIOUS BOILED EGGS AS I SOAK, JUST AS YOU TOLD ME...
WAS ALL THIS TRULY CAUSED BY THE BATH!?
I AM.. GLAD TO HEAR IT, CONSUL...
?
LOOK OVER THERE ..
WHAT WOULD THAT BE?
...BUT AS A MATTER OF FACT...I CALLED YOU HERE FOR A DIFFERENT REASON..

I... I DO NOT. HA-HA-HA...
...DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?
IT DOESN'T SEEM TO MEAN ANY HARM, BUT...
WHA...?
HOW DOES IT INTEND TO GET BACK HOME ..?
I SEE. WELL, I SUPPOSE I'LL LET IT BE, THEN

I once went on a vacation to the Aeolian Islands off the coast of Sicily. On the island known as Vulcano, I visited a natural swampy hot spring with a stench of boiled eggs so strong it made me want to hold my nose, and a Japanese man with the tour group said, "I can't take it anymore," stripped off his clothes, and plunged right into the water.

I could see several people in the water wearing swimsuits, so he must have determined that it wasn't illegal to bathe there and was overcome by the urge to melt off the fatigue of his long, long travel. Covered with gray mud, steam pouring off his body, he crowed, "Ahh, this is perfect," with a look of bliss on his face. Watching him, I thought painfully, "Japanese people really would be helpless without hot springs." However, he came down with an unexplained fever that night, which continued throughout the vacation, and though he did manage to return to Japan safely, he had to be taken off in an ambulance once the plane landed.

No doubt that natural hot spring on Vulcano was open to the public because many people are perfectly fine using it, but something about the nature of the water there likely didn't agree with that fellow. I think he came down with a very nasty case of overexposure.

Even so, whenever the smell of sulfur can be detected, a Japanese person will immediately react, "It's a hot spring! I want to jump in!" It must come from having a volcano in the country—although I suspect the Romans were the same.

A classic postcard of Naples with mountain, sea, and pine.

Internal bath decorations (Pompeii, Italy)

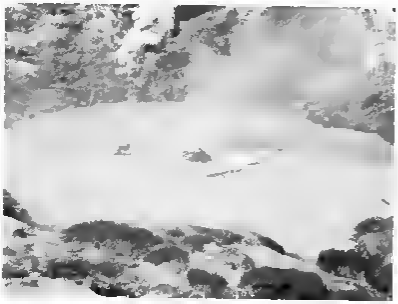
Even in Japan, there are hot springs open to the public in incredibly dangerous places where one misstep could be disastrous. This trend has been noted throughout the Roman Empire as well, where records exist of locals visiting hot springs bubbling up near the base of Mount Vesuvius in the BC era. There might have been people in those springs minutes before that terrible eruption thinking, "Ahh, this feels nice."

I have a feeling that this abiding love of baths shared between the Japanese and the Romans comes from living in a land of volcanoes.

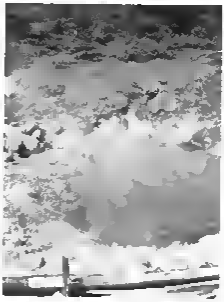
However, we don't know if the Romans had outdoor hot spring installations with an emphasis on the aesthetic beauty of nature, as is the case with Japan's outdoor baths

It seems that the visual aspect of Rome's public baths lay not in landscapes, but the physical beauty of the human form captured in their magnificent sculptures, and records suggest that these sculptures were placed even in baths built where natural hot water sprang up from the earth.

But I often think that if ancient Romans could somehow be brought to Japan, I'd like to have them visit one of our hot springs with a majestic view of Mount Fuji. With this experience under their belts, I wonder if we might have seen ancient Roman outdoor baths with panoramic views of Mount Vesuvius and the harbor of Naples



Another hot spring in Hachimantai.



A hot spring in Hachimantai, Akita Prefecture.

ROME, 130 AD
Chapter 3

*HADRIAN IS WELL KNOWN AS ONE OF THE "FIVE GOOD EMPERORS" OF ROME. BUT HIS REPUTATION WAS DAMAGED AFTER HIS PUBLIC LAMENTATION OVER THE DEATH OF HIS LOVER, ANTINOUS. HADRIAN HAD STATUES ERECTED ALL OVER THE EMPIRE AND CREATED HOLIDAYS TO MEMORIALIZE ANTINOUS. ROMANS AT THE TIME SCORNED HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR AS "THE GREEK STYLE."

BUSY'S NOT THE WORD FOR IT!

EVER SINCE THIS GUY DROWNED IN THE NILE, I HAVEN'T HAD A MOMENT'S REST!

L-LUCIUS!

HO THERE, MARCUS! YOU LOOK BUSY...

...AND I CAN'T FAULT THE EMPEROR FOR BEING ATTRACTED TO IT...

LOOK, HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A HANDSOME FELLOW WITH A FINE ASS...

NA HA HA HA HA!

MARCUS! MAAAR-CUS!

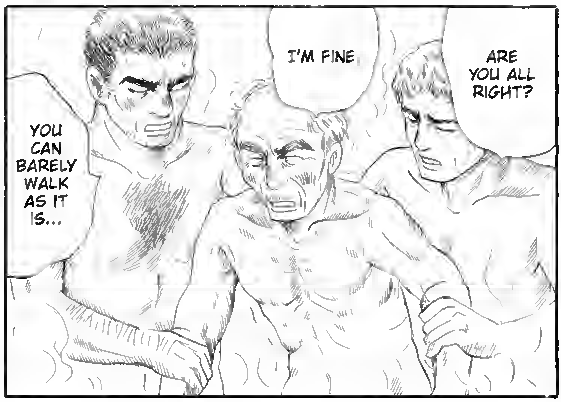
...BUT I LOSE ALL INTEREST ONCE I SEE WHAT'S DANGLING IN FRONT!

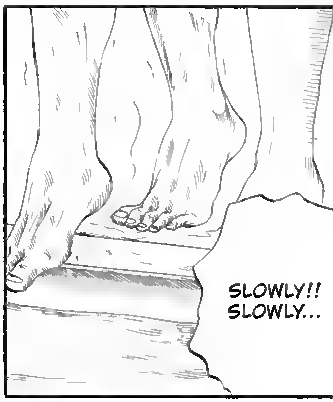
HAH!

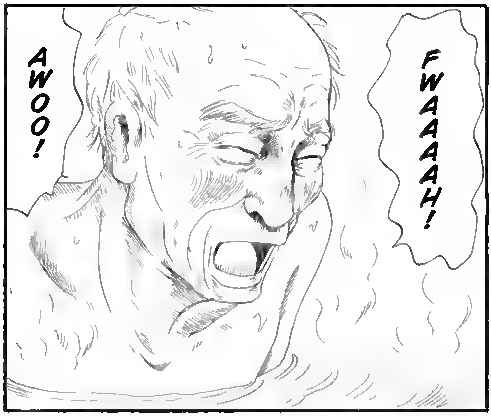
THAT'S NO SURPRISE. EMPEROR HADRIAN WANTS ANTINOUS'S FACE ALL OVER THE EMPIRE SO THAT HIS LOVER WILL BE REMEMBERED.

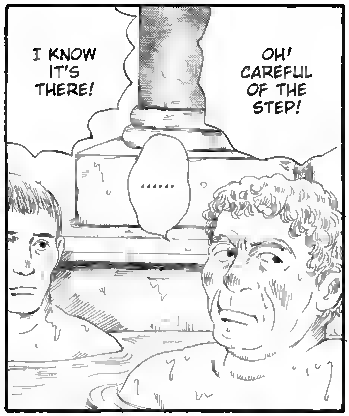
MAYBE SO, BUT SCULPTING THE SAME MAN DAY AFTER DAY SURE GETS TIRING!!

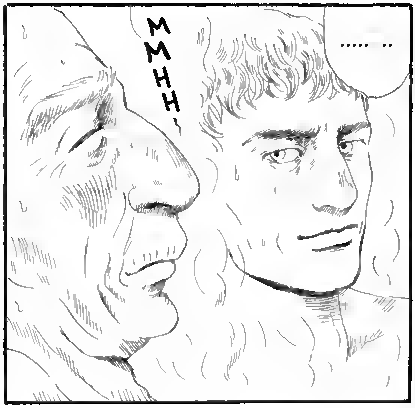
COULD YOU ESCORT ME AGAIN TODAY...?
HUH? ALL RIGHT... GIVE ME A FEW MOMENTS.
IT'S ALMOST EIGHT O'CLOCK...
I BELIEVE THE BATHS SHOULD BE OPEN BY NOW.
EIGHT O CLOCK- PRESENT-DAY 1:00 P.M.
HEH...
YOU'RE RIGHT.
YOU SHOULDN'T SPEAK THAT WAY ABOUT YOUR TEACHER.
WHAT A PAIN!
EVEN IN HIS OLD AGE, HE CAN'T PASS UP A TRIP TO THE BATH!
ROSA COLLINO
TELL YOU WHAT— I'LL JOIN YOU!
AND THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN MATCH THE FEELING OF A NICE, HOT BATH!


YOU CAN BARELY WALK AS IT IS...
I'M FINE.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?


SLOWLY!! SLOWLY...


AWOO!
FWAAAAH!


I KNOW IT'S THERE!
OH! CAREFUL OF THE STEP!
.....

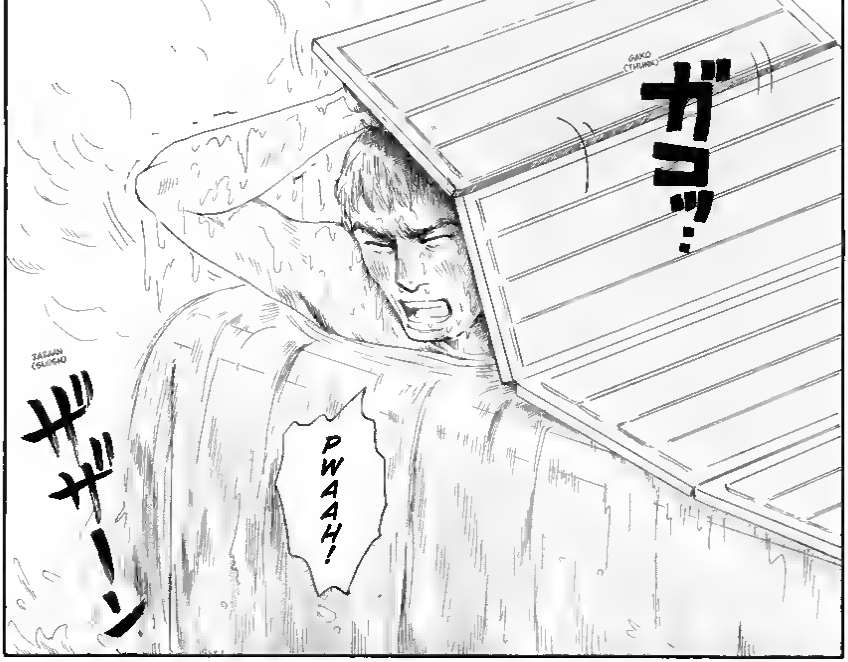

MMHH.
....

I CAN FEEL IT SEEPING DEEP INTO MY BONES .
THERE'S NO GREATER PLEASURE THAN SOAKING IN NICE, HOT WATER!

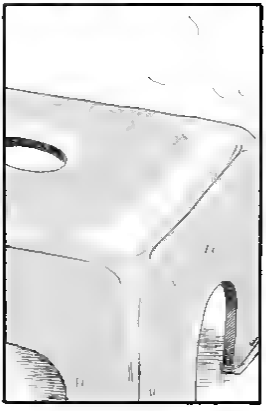
AND IF YOU HAD A BATH IN YOUR HOUSE, YOU'D HAVE TO BE AN ELITE OR A NOBILIS!
IF I HAD A BATH IN MY HOME, I WOULDN'T NEED TO COME ALL THE WAY TO THIS THERMAE...
KEEP ON DREAMING
NO GYMS, NO POOLS, NO COLD SHOWERS...
ALL AN OLD MAN LIKE ME NEEDS IS A BATH LIKE THIS TO WARM HIM UP.
IT SHOULDN'T BE IMPOSSIBLE BY ANY MEANS.
A BATH BUILT RIGHT ON SITE.
.....
I'M ALWAYS READY TO WALK YOU TO THE PUBLIC BATH!!
I'M JUST SAYING, IT WOULD BE NICE!
..
I DIDN'T SAY I WANTED ONE
OH...! I MUST HAVE DROPPED IT IN THE BATH.
WHERE'S MY STRIGIL!?
..MM!?
HUH!?

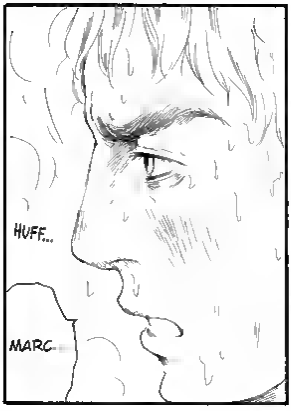
JABON CHILLIDO
じゃぼん
HEY!
NO, LUCIUS! I'LL GET IT!!
I'LL RETRIEVE IT...
SU (SHHH)
BOKO
ボコ
BOKO CHILLIDO
ボコ
BOKO
ボコ
BOKO
ボコ
A PRIMITIVE TOOL THAT HAS NOT CHANGED IN MANY CENTURIES...
OLIVE OIL WAS RUBBED ONTO THE BODY FOLLOWED BY A SPRINKLING OF SAND, THEN A GOOD SCRAPING WITH THE STRIGIL WOULD CLEAN IT ALL OFF.
THE STRIGIL, A METALLIC EXFOLIATING IMPLEMENT.

THE SURFACE OF THE WATER IS COVERED BY SOME-THING!?
WHAT IS THIS?
HMM?
IN THIS DAY AND AGE, WE SHOULD HAVE INVENTED A BETTER BODY-CLEANING TOOL BY NOW...
.....
IS THIS THE WALL!?
SOMEHOW, IT SEEMS SMALLER DOWN HERE THAN IT SHOULD BE...
GUGUGU (STRAIN)
I'M RUNNING... OUT OF BREATH!!
GOBOBO (BUBBLES)
THIS MUST BE MARCUS'S DOING!!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR PRANKS!!
AND THE WATER'S ONLY GETTING HOTTER!

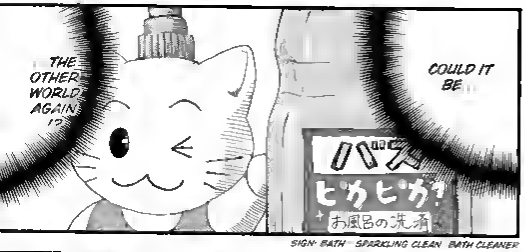


BOTTLES: THE HEALTHY LIFE

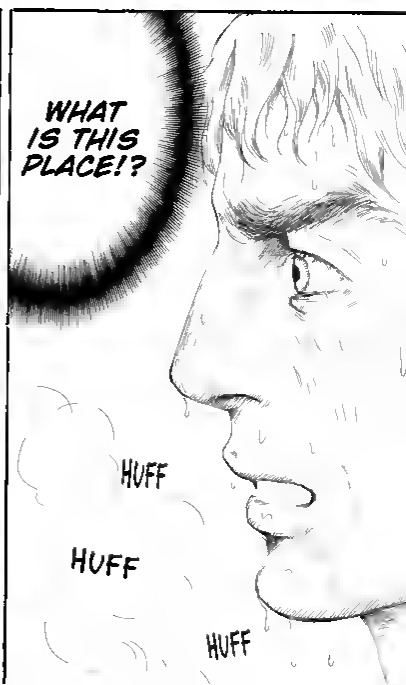




!?
ガコガコ


THE OTHER WORLD AGAIN, I?
COULD IT BE
バス
ヒカヒカ!
お風呂の洗剤
SIGN: BATH SPARKLING CLEAN BATH CLEANER

AND WHAT IS THIS WATER RESERVOIR I'M SITTING IN!?
ちゃぷ…
CHAPLIN CSPLISH
IT'S FULL OF SCALDING HOT WATER..


WHAT IS THIS PLACE!?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

くるっ
KURU (SPIN)
ほか
HOKA (WAIT)
ほか
HOKA
A CASKET FULL OF WATER..!?
WHOEVER BUILT THIS WANTED TO BATHE IN A SPACE THE SIZE OF A GRAVE..
IF THIS IS FOR BATHING, I SENSE A TENACIOUS INTENT BEHIND IT.
IS THERE A FIRE SOMEWHERE BENEATH THIS ROOM...!?
BUT WHERE IS THE WATER BEING HEATED...?
じゃばっ
JABA (SPLASH)
NO...IT MAY BE THE SIZE OF A SMALL CASKET...
...BUT BASED ON THE TEMPERATURE OF THE WATER, I BELIEVE IT'S A TANK FOR BATHING...
CHAPU (SPLASH)
ちゃぷ

WHAT IS THIS OBJECT ATTACHED TO THIS LONG, TOUGH ANIMAL INTESTINE...?
EVERY TIME I COME HERE, I AM AMAZED BY THE VARIETY OF CULTURAL OBJECTS...
AND THIS TANK IS MADE OF A STRANGE MATERIAL... WHATEVER IT IS, IT CAN'T BE FOUND WITHIN THE BORDERS OF THE EMPIRE...
IF ONLY I COULD GATHER ALL OF THESE UNIDENTIFIABLE TRINKETS AND TAKE THEM BACK TO ROME WITH ME...
AND WHAT IS THIS...?
HMM?
TON (TAP)
ぐ～っ
GUU (GRIMACE)
ONCE AGAIN, MY ROMAN PRIDE IS SHAKEN...
...THEY'VE MASTERED THE ART OF STORING MANY THINGS IN A CRAMPED SPACE...
...FOR AS FOOLISH AS THEY LOOK, THEY SURELY SERVE SOME STUNNING AND INGENIOUS PURPOSE.
SAWA (RUB)
SAWA

IT DOES SEEM TO PRESERVE THE WATER'S TEMPERATURE.
GAKO
GAKO OKTHUNKO
COULD IT BE INTENDED TO TRAP THE HEAT OF THE WATER BEFORE IT ESCAPES INTO THE AIR ..!?
THIS SURFACE PLACED OVER THE TANK..
HAS SEEN HIS WAY TO DEVELOPING
A NOTION THAT NOT ONE PERSON IN THE HISTORY OF THE SUPREME ROMAN CULTURE
DAMN .
.. AND THE WATER WOULD STAY WARM FOR A WHILE...
EVEN WITHOUT A STOVE OR FIRE, YOU COULD POUR HOT WATER IN, COVER IT UP..
CAT BOTTLE KIDS SHAMPOO
IF THIS GOES ON, IT WILL BE THE END FOR ROME AND FOR ME!
ALL RIGHT, GRANDPA...
WHAT A FARCE I AM .
I THOUGHT I HAD MADE EVERY EFFORT, GAINED EVERY SCRAP OF KNOWLEDGE THAT A BATHING ENGINEER NEEDS .. BUT I WAS AN ARROGANT FOOL.

.....
.....
IT'S MICHIKO, FATHER...
YES, I KNOW, YONEKO-SAN.
MAKE SURE HE HELPS GIVE YOU A BATH, ALL RIGHT?
YOUR HELPER WILL BE ALONG SOON
BATSU (TSUMO)
バラ...。
HAVE A GOOD TRIP, MATSUYO-SAN.
I'LL BE BACK LATER!!
GARAN (SHUNKO)
ガラン
PAKARI (CLIP)
はさ
I CAN GET IN THE BATH ON MY OWN...
MOSO
もそ
MOSO (RUSTLE)
もそ

HE MA
HA-HA! BETCHA HAD A LONG COMMUTE, HUH!!?
CAVE!!
WATCH OUT!
TSUMU (GULP)
AAAH!!
AND TODAY'S IS A FOREIGN HELPER!!
MY HELPER'S ALREADY HERE!
OHHH!?

PERHAPS HE OWNS THIS CASKET-SHAPED BATH...
THIS MAN IS VERY OLD
THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE
BENE HABET?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
MAYBE THIS TYPE OF BATH WOULD WORK FOR MARCUS'S SCULPTING TEACHER..?
THANK YOU..
.....
GO AHEAD AND WASH MY BACK!!

JABU (GLOSSO)
YOU USE THIS TO SCOOP SOME WATER...
SU (SWIP)
.....
NOW GIVE ME ANOTHER
JABAN (SPLASH)
...AND THEN POUR IT ON YOUR BACK!! LIKE THIS!!
I SEE... IF HE CANNOT EXERCISE, THIS ACTIVITY WILL HELP GET HIS BLOOD FLOWING...
THAT'S THE TICKET!!
JABA (GLOSSO)
OHH!
THERE WE GO!
MWHA ...?
TE ADIUVARE POSSUM? SHALL I HELP?

GASP
..
I'LL RUB FIRST, THEN YOU CAN GET MY BACK.
NEXT IS SCRUBBING OFF THE DIRT
GOSHI
BORO
A CLOTH FOR THE SCRAPING AND REMOVAL OF DIRT!?
YOU'VE GOT TO SEND MONEY TO YOUR FAMILY BACK HOME, HUH?
WH-WHAT IS THIS ..!?
I KNOW IT'S NOT EASY FOR YOU EITHER
AND LOOK HOW MUCH FILTH IS REMOVED FROM THE OLD MAN'S SKIN, JUST WITH A SINGLE CLOTH...
.. OKAY, HELPER-SAN! TIME FOR MY BACK!!
AND TO DO THAT, YOU'VE GOTTA TAKE ON THIS NEW, UNFAMILIAR JOB...
HE DID NOT EXERCISE TO WORK UP A SWEAT OR RUB OIL ON HIS SKIN FIRST, BUT INSTEAD WENT STRAIGHT TO SCRAPING HIS SKIN

ボロ ボロ
BORO BORO (FLAKE)
MORE AND MORE KEEPS COMING OFF!!
GOSSH
OW, OW, OW!!
GOSSH
GOSSH
GOSSH CRUBO
GOSSH
GOSSH
GOOD. GOOD.
WHAT IS THIS CLOTH EVEN MADE OF!?
I SUPPOSE MY HEAD IS NEXT!
.....
DON'T GO SO HARD, OR YOU'LL TEAR UP THE FRESH SKIN UNDER-NEATH...
HIRI (STING)
HIRI
HA HA HA
キュッ
GU
キュッ
GU (SQUEEZE)
SEE, I POP IT ON LIKE SO...
.....
GUCA CHANG
...SO I HAVE TO PUT ON THIS SHAMPOO HAT FIRST!
I DON'T HAVE MUCH HAIR TO WASH, BUT THE SHAMPOO GETS IN MY EYES ALL THE SAME..

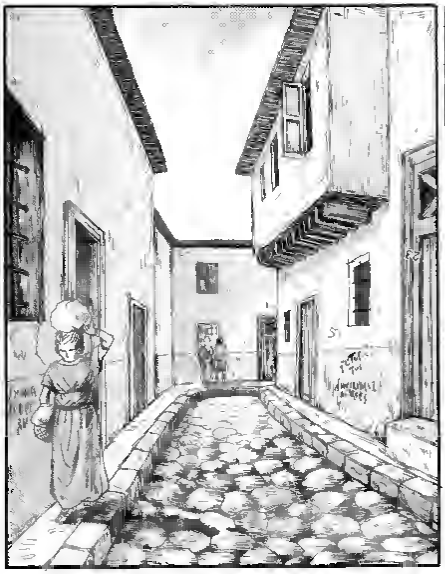
THERE, SEE?
A CROWN!? IS THIS ELDER THE LEADER OF HIS PEOPLE!?
JUST LIKE THIS...
AND RINSE IT WITH THIS.
NOW
. I WASH LIKE SO .
IT IS EASY TO EXPAND ONE'S TERRITORY WITH MILITARY POWER...BUT CULTURE... CULTURE IS A DIFFERENT BEAST..
NOW THAT THE SHAMPOO'S DONE, IT'S TIME FOR THE TUB!!
SEE HOW NONE OF IT GETS ON MY FACE?
NWA HA HA HA.

HELPER...?
HELPER-SAN?
YOU THINK YOU KNOW HOW IT WORKS NOW?
SEE? IT'S NOT SO HARD, IS IT?
OH NO! WHAT'S WRONG, SONNY!?
HANG ON, I'LL GET YOU SOMETHING COOL TO DRINK!
OH GOODNESS! HAVE YOU OVER-HEATED!?
A-ARE YOU FEELIN' ALL RIGHT!? DO YOU NEED HELP!?

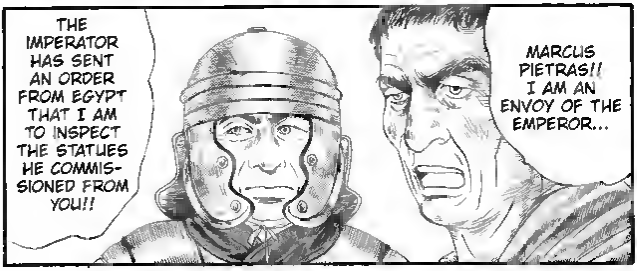
I KNOW THIS IS HARDLY THE TIME TO BE DWELLING ON MY OWN LACK OF KNOWL-EDGE...
EVERY TIME I COME TO THIS WORLD, I AM STRUCK DOWN BY A SENSE OF INADEQUACY
...BUT IT IS SO DIFFICULT TO STAY COM-POSED!!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
HELPER-SAN! YOU HANGIN' IN THERE!?
CAN: ZAPPORO 1PRY
HERE, THIS SHOULD MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER!
DRINK IT, AND YOU'LL COOL DOWN A BIT!!
ZAP!
GO ON!! GULP IT DOWN!!
GULP
GOKU (GULP)

I FEEL IT... SPARKLING IN MY STOMACH!!
FEELIN' BETTER NOW!?
WHAT DO YOU THINK!?
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE ...?
WE ROMANS CANNOT HOLD A CANDLE TO THEIR MASTERY OF THE HEDONISTIC ARTS!!
IF THE DAY SHOULD COME WHEN ROME INCORPORATES THIS LAND AS A PROVINCE OF THE EMPIRE, PEOPLE IN MY LINE OF WORK WILL LOSE OUR JOBS TO THEIR KIND...
MUST... I MUST DO SOME-THING...
SORRY TO PUT YOU THROUGH ALL THIS, SONNY
I CAN-NOT LET THIS GO ON...
HA HA HA HA.
DAMNA-TION!
OHHH!

HAS HE COME TO?
LUCIUS!!
LUCIUS, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
GASP...
.....
.....
がば
GABA CLURCHO
A DIRT-SCRAPER.
...WHAT IS THAT...?
STOP SCARING ME LIKE THIS!!
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME, YOU GREAT FOOL!



WHAT!?
DA CRASH!
COME, MARCUS! WE ARE BUILDING A BATH FOR YOUR TEACHER!!
HEY! LUCIUS, WAIT!


THE IMPERATOR HAS SENT AN ORDER FROM EGYPT THAT I AM TO INSPECT THE STATUES HE COMMISSIONED FROM YOU!!
MARCUS PIETRAS!! I AM AN ENVOY OF THE EMPEROR...

...ARE YOU MAKING THERE?
WHAT IN THE WORLD ...

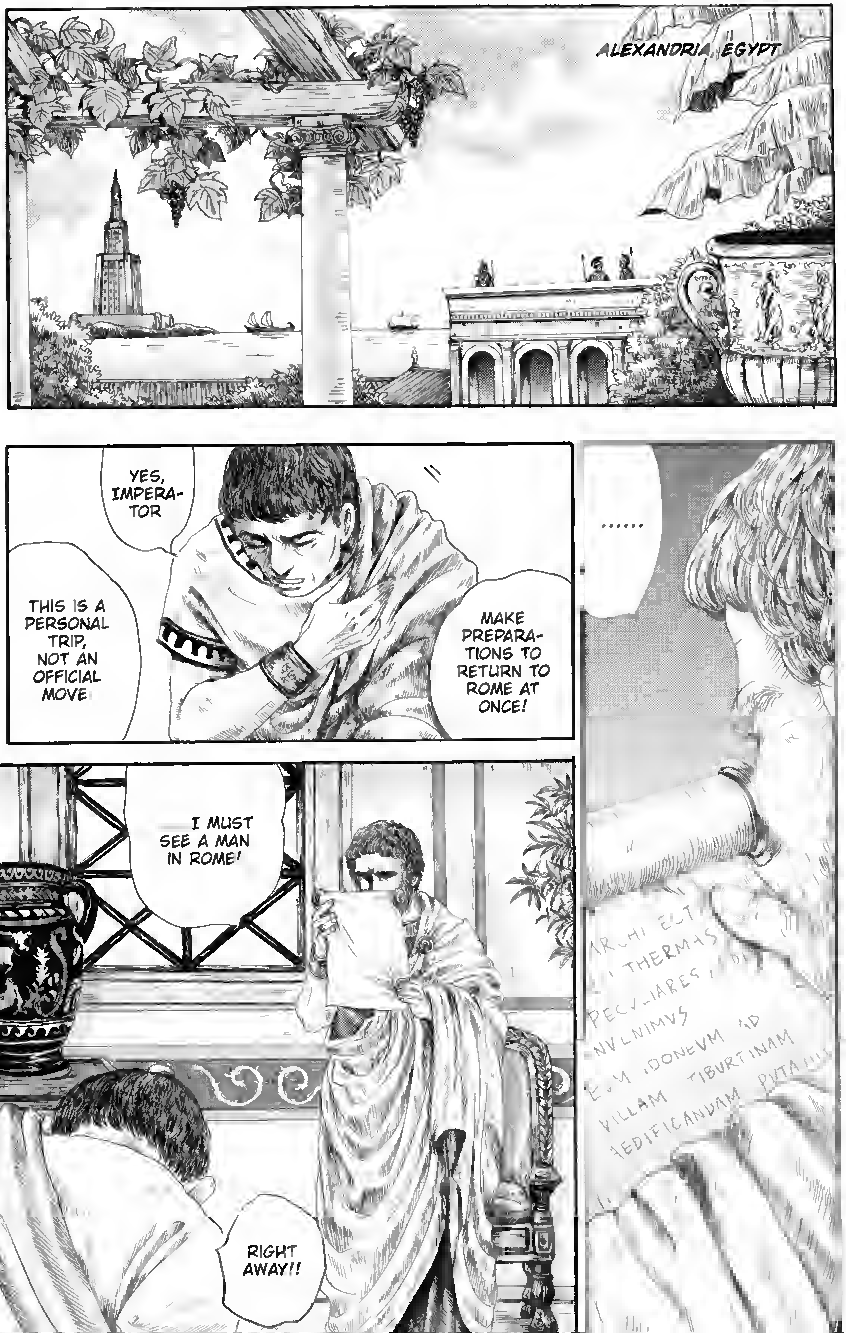
MARCUS PIETRAS.
AAAH!! P-PRES-ENT...

MARCUS PIETRAS!

WHAT OF THE STATUES OF ANTINOUS THAT HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS COMMISSIONED!?
RATHER THAN A CHISEL FOR SCULPTING STONE, YOU HOLD A CIRCLE OF LEATHER AND A PAIR OF SHEARS.
ER.. THIS IS, WELL, UM, YOU SEE...
HA HA...
ALL TWENTY OF THEM...
OH...TH-THE STATUES OF ANTINOUS ARE ALL COMPLETED, JUST AS REQUESTED!
HMM!?
THE FULL TWENTY, I ASSUME?
YOU'LL FIND THEM OVER THERE!!

じょぼぼぼぼぼ
GOSH (RUB)
GOSH
GOSH
GOSH
じょぼぼぼぼぼ
じょぼぼぼぼぼ
WHA—!!?
WHAT NONSENSE IS THIS!?
HUH? ER... HA HA...

A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE IS A BATH ENGINEER WITH AN INCREDIBLE IMAGINATION ..
. AND HE BUILT THIS FOR MY SCULPTING MASTER, WHOSE LEGS AND BACK ARE TOO WEAK FOR HIM TO VISIT THE THERMAE...
A SIMPLE BATH FOR HOME USE...
IT'S A BATH.
.....
.....
SUKO
SHAKI
SHAKI
SUKO
HEH HEH HEH...
THE SACK FULL OF HOLES AT THE END OF THAT COW INTESTINE RELEASES A RAIN OF WATER TO WASH IT ALL AWAY...
MAKES YOU THINK OF ALL THE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES, DOESN'T IT?
THE EMPEROR MUST HEAR OF THIS!!
MY FRIEND ALSO THOUGHT UP THAT SUDS-BLOCKING LEATHER BRIM TO KEEP SOAP OUT OF HIS EYES!


ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT
YES, IMPERA-TOR
THIS IS A PERSONAL TRIP, NOT AN OFFICIAL MOVE!
MAKE PREPARA-TIONS TO RETURN TO ROME AT ONCE!
I MUST SEE A MAN IN ROME!
RIGHT AWAY!!
.....

When was it that Japan began building personal baths within homes? We know that they existed since quite a long time ago, but the ongoing existence of public bathhouses suggests that most people could not afford to construct such baths. Rome was much the same way.

As I wrote earlier, only a select few of the one million people who lived in Rome at its height could afford to have private baths. When you consider that the Roman bath involved warm, hot, and cold soaking (in that order), and would thus require facilities for all three of these stages, it is easy to see how only those with exceedingly large homes could house fixtures of this nature. With this level of complexity, the Romans naturally required some preparation before leaving for a bath.

The Japanese consider a personal bucket, soap, and a cloth for cleaning to be the bare minimum of items for a trip to the bath. What about the Romans?

As we saw in Chapter 3, the Romans used a thin metallic scraping implement known as a strigil, and fragrant oils that were rubbed onto the body. The more affluent members of society brought tools for nail care as well.

If you visited the bath without a personal strigil or a slave for cleaning the skin, there would be scrubbers working at the thermae who would do it for you. Massages were available as well. Essentially, one did not need to worry about leaving the house empty-handed.

The ruins of a personal bathing room, heated from below (Vidigueira, Portugal)

The remains of an ancient Roman mansion (Vidigueira, Portugal)

I've been dying for the chance to use one of these strigils for myself, but unfortunately, you won't be able to get your hands on one of them in Europe unless you raid a museum. If my curiosity gets the best of me, I'll have to ask a blacksmith to fashion one specially for me. Seeing how the strigil was used for centuries since its development in ancient Greece, I have to imagine that despite its fearsome look, it probably felt pretty good...

On the subject of Europeans and their two-thousand-year history of scraping off dirt and dead skin, in all my years of living here, I've never seen any bathing tools for scrubbing that aren't a brush or sponge. It's hard to imagine that those soft surfaces could actually scrape off tough layers of grit, so I have to assume that the people here are doing nothing more than scrubbing soap into a layer of filth that is permanently stuck to the surface of their skin.

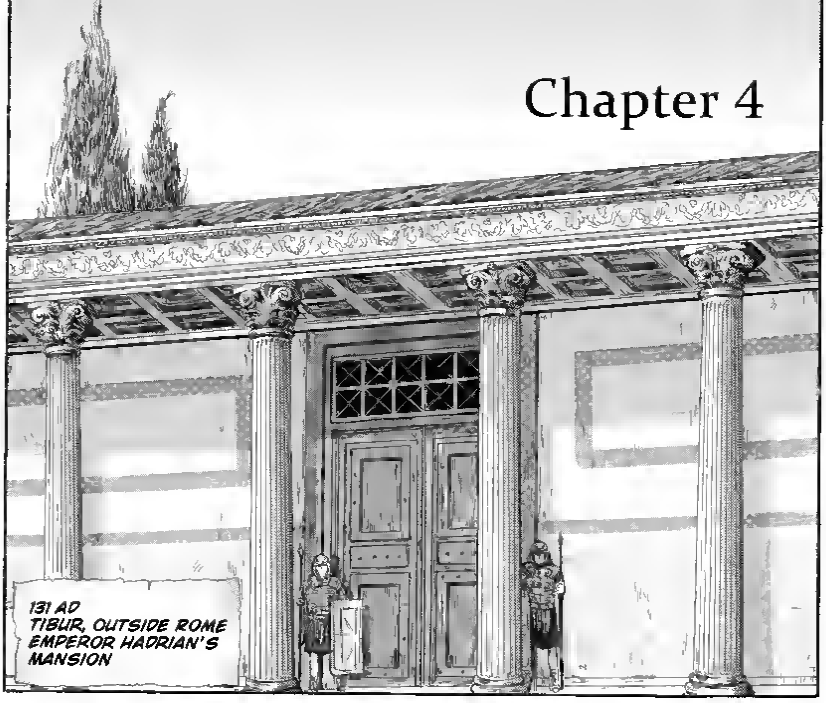
It's almost as though the ancient Romans, with their fierce strigils, were a cleaner people than modern Europeans. No, really.

Nail care set

Vessels for body oil

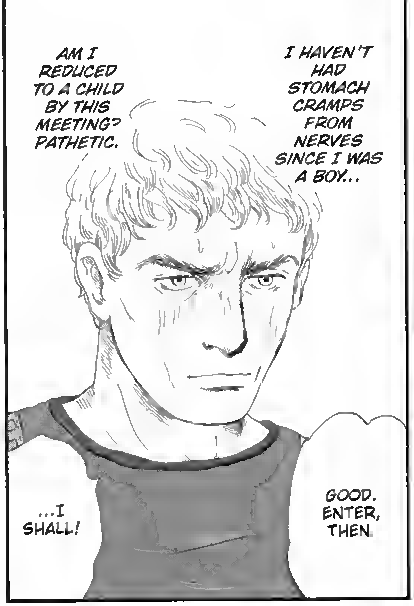
Strigil

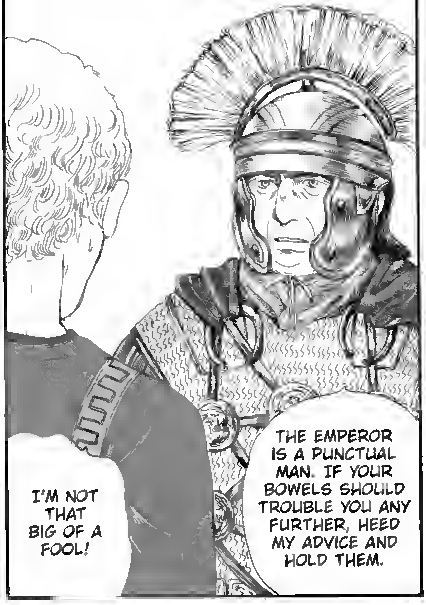
Chapter 4

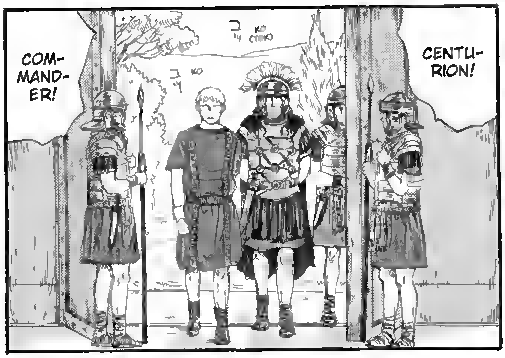

131 AD
TIBUR, OUTSIDE ROME
EMPEROR HADRIAN'S
MANSION

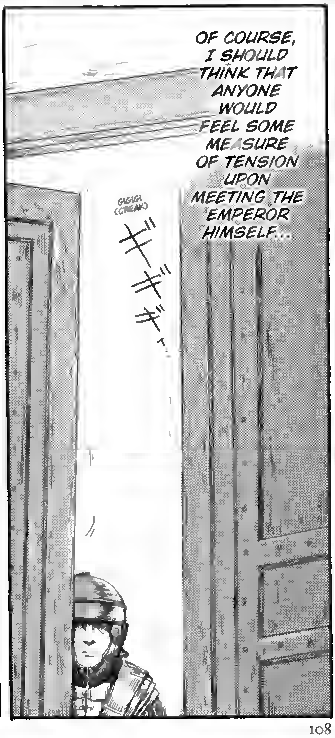
ENGINEER
LUCIUS!
I AM SO
SORRY...
TO HAVE
KEPT YOU
WAITING!
...!
СТУК

ШЛЯП
(SHORT)
.....
.....


AM I REDUCED TO A CHILD BY THIS MEETING? PATHETIC.
I HAVEN'T HAD STOMACH CRAMPS FROM NERVES SINCE I WAS A BOY..
...I SHALL!
GOOD. ENTER, THEN.


I'M NOT THAT BIG OF A FOOL!
THE EMPEROR IS A PUNCTUAL MAN. IF YOUR BOWELS SHOULD TROUBLE YOU ANY FURTHER, HEED MY ADVICE AND HOLD THEM.


COM-MAND-ER!
CENTU-RION!


OF COURSE, I SHOULD THINK THAT ANYONE WOULD FEEL SOME MEASURE OF TENSION UPON MEETING THE EMPEROR HIMSELF...

.....

AND LOOK THERE! AN ENORMOUS THERMAE ALL TO HIMSELF!!
I'VE HEARD THAT THE EMPEROR HIMSELF DESIGNED THE ENTIRE RESIDENCE...
IS THIS REALLY...JUST AN ESTATE? IT LOOKS MORE LIKE A SMALL CITY...!!
WHAT IN THE WORLD WOULD A MAN LIKE HIM WANT WITH A SIMPLE BATHING ENGINEER LIKE ME!?
THIS WAY, ENGINEER!
THIS IS A RULER WHO CAN ALREADY EXECUTE ARCHITECTURAL WORK OF THE HIGHEST ORDER.
GLURRRRRR (GASTRIC)
URGH... MY STOM-ACH...

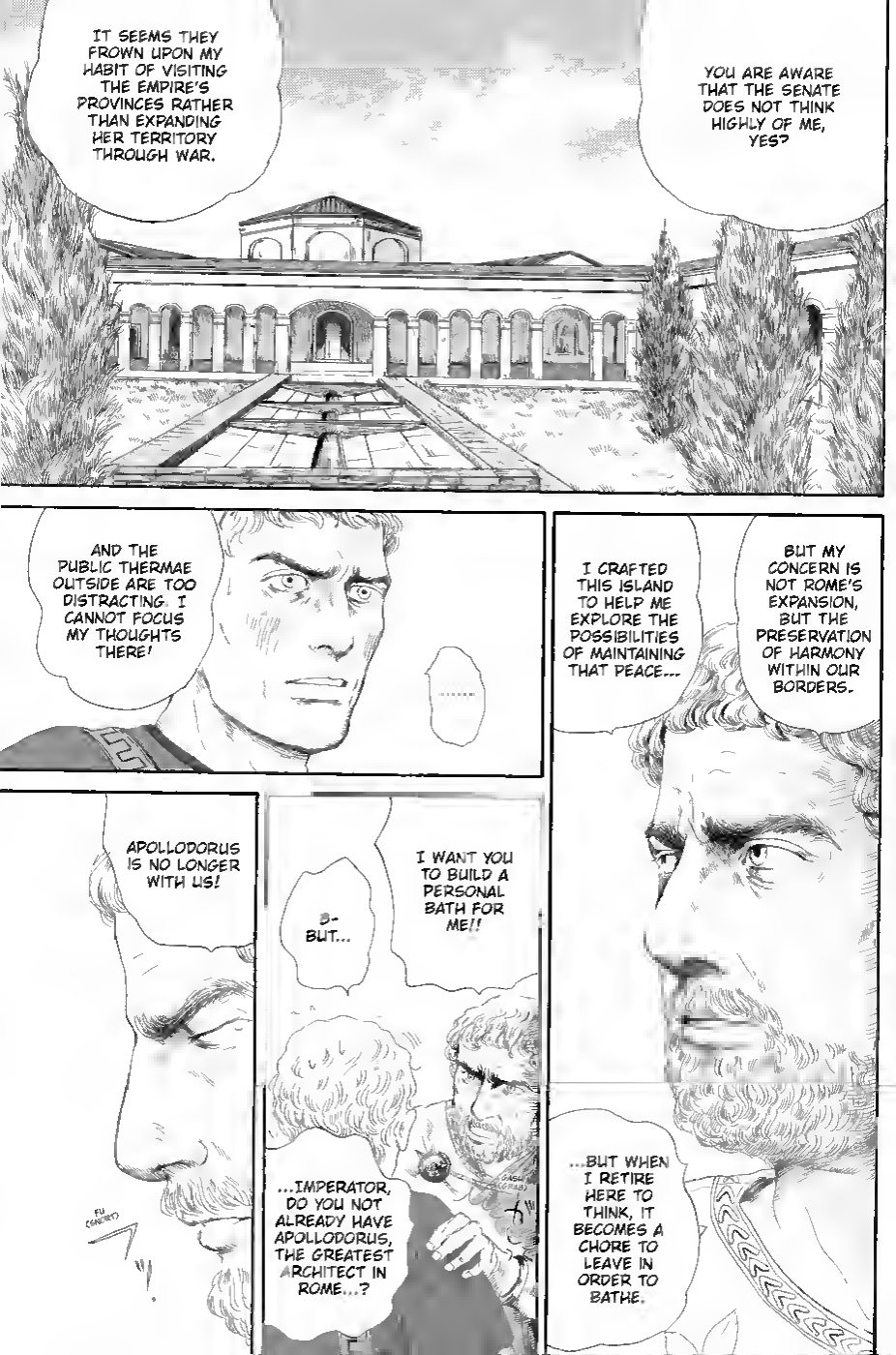
...
I HAVE BROUGHT THE ENGINEER LUCIUS MODESTUS OF ROME!
CENTURION CAELIUS CLEMENS REPORTING.
.....
YOU'VE KEPT THE EMPEROR WAITING INSIDE!
IT CERTAINLY TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.
GO! BEFORE HE BECOMES ANGRY AT YOUR TARDINESS!!
B-BUT I CAN'T JUST WANDER IN ON MY OWN.
BUT...
HURRY!
ONLY THOSE CALLED MAY ENTER!
BEYOND THIS DOOR IS A PLACE HIS AUGUSTNESS BUILT FOR HIS OWN PRIVATE LEISURE.
GIGI CHIGIRO
ギギ...
WHAT? BY MYSELF!?
YOU WILL HAVE TO GO THE REST OF THE WAY ON YOUR OWN, ENGINEER.

HAD-
NESS...
I'm...
YOU LOOK AS THOUGH YOU'RE SEEING SOMETHING OUT OF A FANTASY..
WHAT A MYSTERIOUS SIGHT..
THIS IS A SHAPE THAT HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN IN ROMAN ARCHITECTURE...
A ROUND INTERIOR SPACE SURROUNDED BY A MOAT?

...YOU ARE LUCIUS, THE BATHING ENGINEER ?
YES!!
LUCIUS MODESTUS, AT YOUR SERVICE!!
EMPEROR HADRIAN!!
COME THIS WAY, LUCIUS.
Y-YES, HIGH-NESS!
GULP
H-HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO ACT ON A STATEMENT LIKE THAT..?
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL!
AS YOU SAY...

...HUH!?
NORMALLY, ANYONE WHO CROSSES IS PUNISHED TO THE HARSHEST DEGREE.
THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS FOOT-BRIDGE IS MY PERSONAL ISLAND.
R RIGHT AWAY.
STOP DAWDLING AND FOLLOW ME!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WILL I BE WHIPPED FOR CROSSING IT!?
BUT YOU ARE A SPECIAL EXCEPTION...THERE IS SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO SEE ON THE OTHER SIDE.
—BUT I HAVE HEARD TALES OF YOUR RATHER EXTRAORDINARY BATHS AS WELL.
I AM OFTEN TOLD THAT MY PROJECTS ARE BIZARRE AND CONFOUNDING...
AHH...
WHAT DOES HE WANT TO SHOW ME, THAT HE WOULD BRING ME TO THIS SANCTUM!?

LUCIUS...
...WHAT IS IT? WHAT IS THAT STRANGELY SHAPED ROOM...?
AND I WOULD LIKE YOU TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS...
IF IT WERE LEFT TO YOU...
...WHAT TYPE OF BATH WOULD YOU BUILD IN A LIMITED SPACE SUCH AS THIS?
DID YOU NOT BUILD A VERY FUNCTIONAL BATH INSIDE A MUCH SMALLER HOUSE?
ER, BUT...
...IT WAS VERY HUMBLE AND CRUDE! NOT AT ALL FIT FOR...
WHAT!?
A B-BATH!? HERE!?
DO NOT ABASE YOURSELF!
I'VE SPENT YEARS PONDERING THE MATTER, AND I'VE NEVER COME UP WITH ANYTHING LIKE THIS SO-CALLED "CRUDE" CREATION OF YOURS!


IT SEEMS THEY FROWN UPON MY HABIT OF VISITING THE EMPIRE'S PROVINCES RATHER THAN EXPANDING HER TERRITORY THROUGH WAR.
YOU ARE AWARE THAT THE SENATE DOES NOT THINK HIGHLY OF ME, YES?
AND THE PUBLIC THERMAE OUTSIDE ARE TOO DISTRACTING. I CANNOT FOCUS MY THOUGHTS THERE!
.....
I CRAFTED THIS ISLAND TO HELP ME EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF MAINTAINING THAT PEACE...
BUT MY CONCERN IS NOT ROME'S EXPANSION, BUT THE PRESERVATION OF HARMONY WITHIN OUR BORDERS.
APOLLODORUS IS NO LONGER WITH US!
B-BUT...
I WANT YOU TO BUILD A PERSONAL BATH FOR ME!!
...IMPERATOR, DO YOU NOT ALREADY HAVE APOLLODORUS, THE GREATEST ARCHITECT IN ROME...?
...BUT WHEN I RETIRE HERE TO THINK, IT BECOMES A CHORE TO LEAVE IN ORDER TO BATHE.

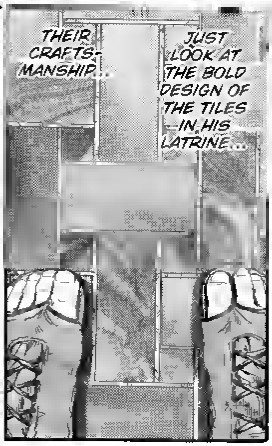
...IS NOT FIT TO SATISFY THE EMPEROR'S DEMANDS!?
EVEN THE LEGENDARY APOLLODORUS OF DAMASCUS ..
NO USE..?
WHAT!?
I HAVE NO USE FOR A MAN OF SUCH ANTIQUATED THINKING!
I WOULD NOT HAVE RETURNED FROM EGYPT UNLESS I WAS ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN OF THIS.
.....
.....
A YOUNG MAN WITH CHALLENGING IDEAS, SUCH AS YOURSELF!
WHAT I NEED IS ONE WITH THE ORIGINALITY TO BRING FORTH NEW THINGS THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN BEFORE!
WILL YOU GIVE ME YOUR HELP, AS A ROMAN WHO BEARS THE PEACE OF ROME ON HIS BACK?
I MUST BE ABLE TO THINK HARD ON WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN JERUSALEM.
I MUST LEAVE FOR JERUSALEM WITHIN A MONTH.
THERE ARE FORCES THAT WORK AGAINST PEACE IN THE AREA...

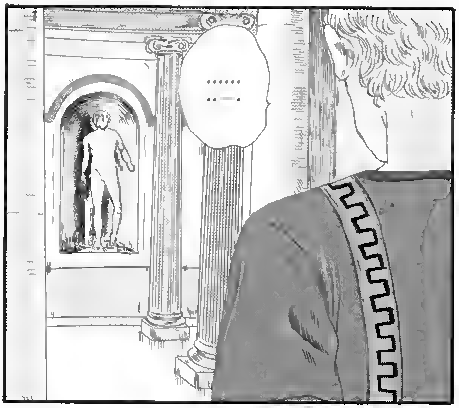
I UNDERSTAND! I WILL DO MY UTMOST!
A ROMAN WHO BEARS THE PEACE OF ROME ON HIS BACK.....

AND NOW THAT I'VE AGREED TO IT, HOW WILL I ACTUALLY DO IT...?
SIGH

I WOULD BE FORSAKING MY PRIDE AS A ROMAN TO BETRAY THE EMPEROR'S HOPES...

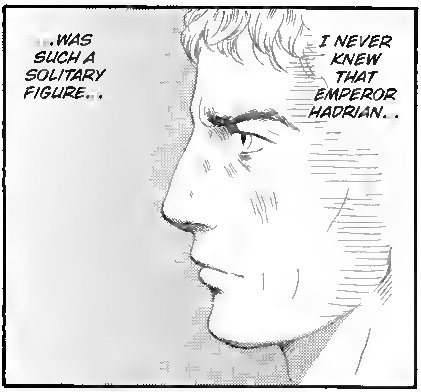
SIGH...
I'D HEARD HADRIAN SPOKEN OF AS A STUDIOUS, METICULOUS, BRILLIANT MAN, BUT...


THEIR CRAFTSMANSHIP...
JUST LOOK AT THE BOLD DESIGN OF THE TILES ...IN HIS LATRINE...


.....
.....

NO DOUBT HIS WRATH WILL BE GREAT...
WHAT IF I BUILD SOMETHING FOR HIM, AND HE IS DISAPPOINTED?
GRAVEL (SUDSH)

IT ALMOST FEELS... WORTHY OF PITY, IN A WAY...
ISOLATED IN SUCH A NARROW SPACE, SURROUNDED BY WATER ON ALL SIDES...


..WAS SUCH A SOLITARY FIGURE...
I NEVER KNEW THAT EMPEROR HADRIAN..

11"
GASP (PLUP)

...TO DESIGNING AND BUILDING A BATH HERE...
.....
.....
THAT SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE...

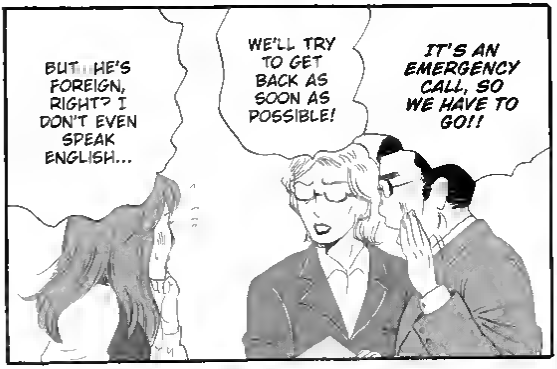
WAIT..IF THERE IS A MOAT HERE, DOESN'T THAT MEAN THERE IS WATER BEING DIVERTED THROUGH THIS BUILDING?
HMM...?

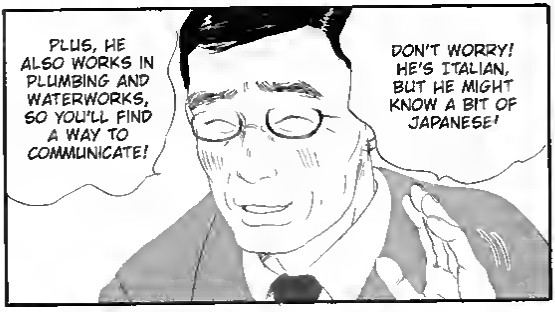
FIRST I SHOULD DETERMINE THE POINTS OF ENTRY AND EXIT FOR THIS WATER..
I THOUGHT I SAW A BOTTOM, BUT MY FEET AREN'T REACHING...
HMM?
ZURU (SLIDE)
ズル
ZURU (SLIDE)
ズルッ!!
AAAH!
ドボン!

SIGN: SHOWROOM

WHAT!? I HAVE TO ENTERTAIN OUR GUEST MYSELF!?

SHINJUKU, TOKYO
2009 AD


BUT... HE'S FOREIGN, RIGHT? I DON'T EVEN SPEAK ENGLISH...
WE'LL TRY TO GET BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
IT'S AN EMERGENCY CALL, SO WE HAVE TO GO!!


PLUS, HE ALSO WORKS IN PLUMBING AND WATERWORKS, SO YOU'LL FIND A WAY TO COMMUNICATE!
DON'T WORRY! HE'S ITALIAN, BUT HE MIGHT KNOW A BIT OF JAPANESE!

WHAT NOW...?
HURRY, SIR!!
SO IF HE DOES ARRIVE, JUST SHOW HIM AROUND FOR A BIT!!
BUT...
HE MIGHT NOT EVEN SHOW UP AT ALL!
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE HERE AT THREE, BUT IT'S ALREADY PAST THAT, SO HE MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN
WHAT IF HE SHOWS UP AS IF NOTHING'S WRONG AFTER TWO OR THREE HOURS?
I'VE HEARD ITALIANS ARE LOOSE WITH THE CONCEPT OF TIME.
SIGNS EXCEL SERIES / PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE TUB
YOU CAN HANDLE A FOREIGNER OR TWO!
YOU WORKED HARD TO GET THIS JOB!!
DON'T GET DOWN ON YOURSELF, MAMI!!
エクセルシリーズ
OKAY! I'M FEELING A BIT MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT THIS!
IF I NEED HELP, YOSHIZAWA-SAN MIGHT BE ABLE TO DROP THOSE CUSTOMERS AND GIVE ME A HAND.

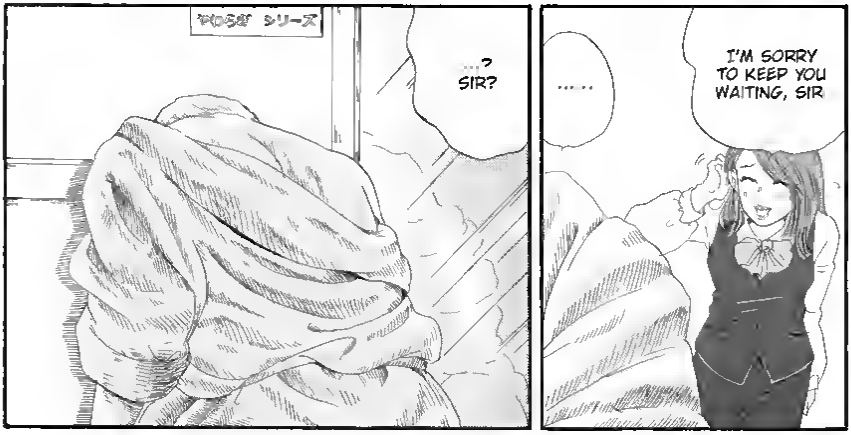
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
A FOR-
EIGNER!!

I... ITALIAN ...?
AH! A FLAT-FACE!!
HUFF
WH... WHERE AM I!?
HUFF...
IT SEEMS I'VE LANDED IN SOME-ONE'S PRIVATE BATH AGAIN...
THE SECTION MANAGER HAD TO LEAVE FOR AN URGENT MATTER, SO I WILL BE YOUR GUIDE FOR THE TIME BEING!
I'LL STICK TO JAPA-NESE!
I'VE COME AGAIN... OR SHOULD I SAY, I'VE BEEN SENT HERE AGAIN
.....
... ..
I SEE..
WELCOME, SIR! WE'VE BEEN AWAITING YOU!
W...
WHY IS SHE SO INCREDIBLY FLUS-TERED ..?
HUH!? NO WAY... WHY!? HOW!?
?
HUH!? SIR... WHERE ARE YOUR CLOTHES!?
ZAPPA-LOPLAGHO
I SHOULD GET OUT, BEFORE MY PRESENCE CAUSES THIS SLAVE'S MASTER TO SUSPECT HER OF MISCHIEF...
EEK...

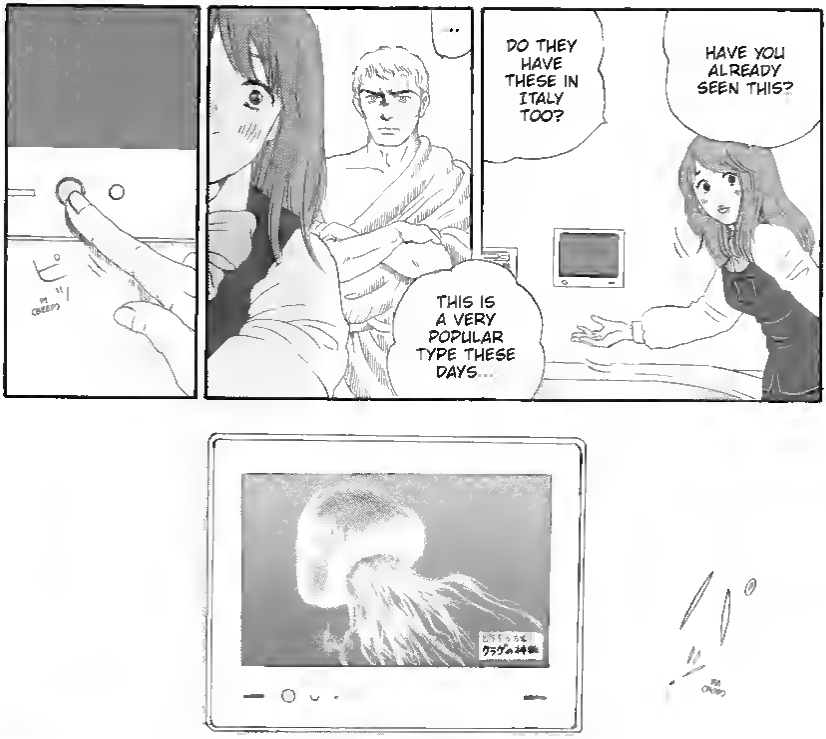
SIGN: WOOL BATHROBE
JUNK
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING!?
SUTA
スタ
(STRONG)
AND THERE ARE OPTIONS FOR BUBBLE JETS AND AN UNDER-WATER LIGHT.
IT HAS A REFINED FEEL ABOUT IT...
THIS MUST BE THE HOME OF A VERY ECO-NOMICALLY WEALTHY MAN...
...
...AS YOU'VE SEEN, THIS BATHTUB IS OUR DEEPER MODEL...
AH, YOSHIZAWA-SAN...
MAMI-CHAN, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HIM!?
SHOULD I GO AND CALL FOR THE POLICE!?
THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE IS CLEARLY A GREAT AFICIONADO OF BATHING...
I CAN SEE SMALLER WASHING BASINS HERE AND THERE..

SEE HOW SERIOUS HE'S TAKING IT? HE CLEARLY WORKS IN THIS INDUSTRY...
HE'S TOTALLY CAUGHT UP IN EXAMINING ALL THE DETAILS OF OUR TUBS...
...WELL... I SUPPOSE SO...
KACHA
KACHA
...?
LOOK AT HIM NOW...
I KNOW, I WAS WORRIED AT FIRST, BUT...
SURE THANKS!
OKAY, WELL... IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, JUST LET ME KNOW!
MAYBE THE ITALIAN ECONOMY IS ALSO BAD, AND YOU HAVE TO BE THIS INTO IT TO SURVIVE THERE...
OH, I CAN IMAGINE...

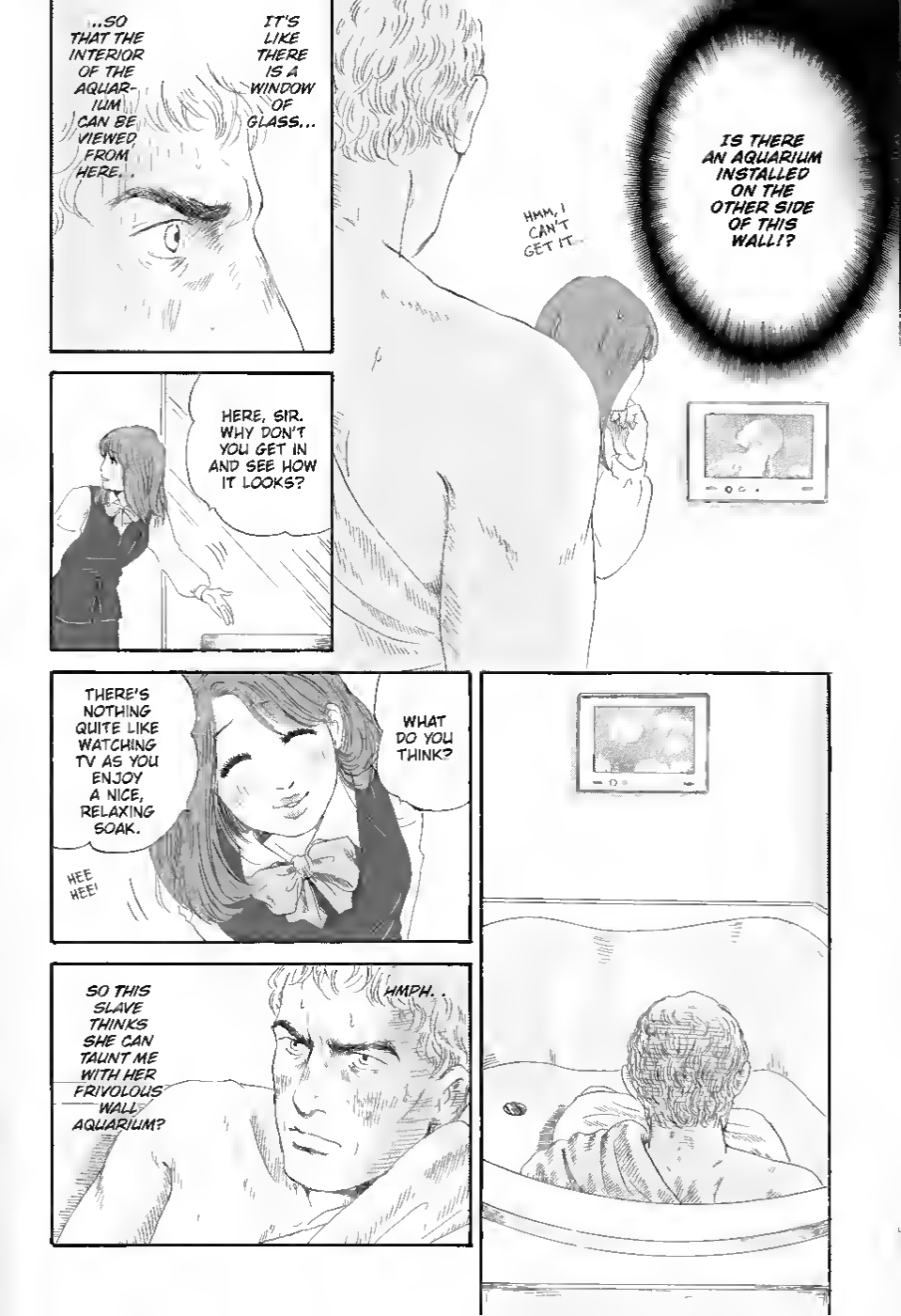
SIGH: RELAXATION SERIES



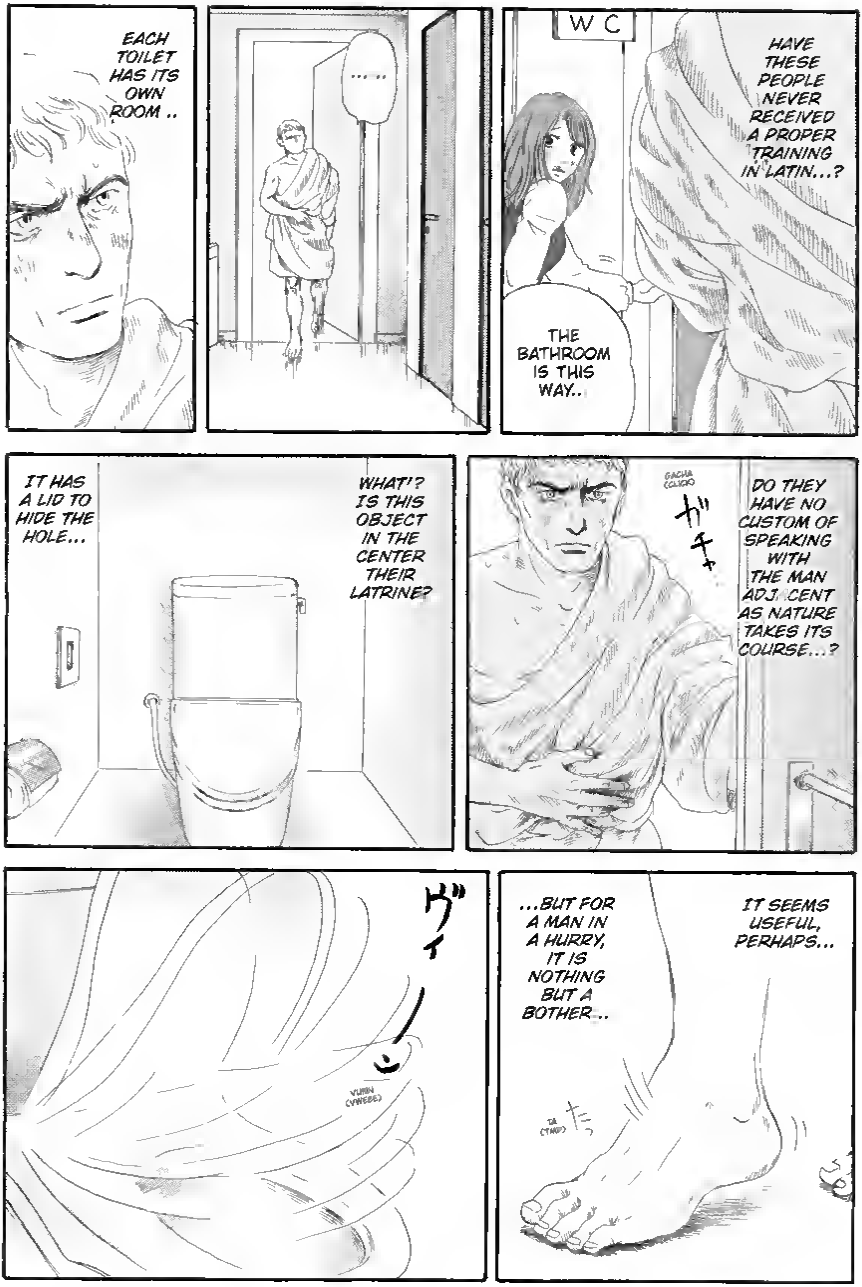
...THAT THESE PEOPLE ACTUALLY OCCUPY A REGION FAR MORE VAST THAN EVEN ROME'S MIGHTY REACH..
THERE'S ALWAYS THE UNSAVORY POSSIBILITY..
ARE YOU... OKAY?
SO HOW DOES ONE EXPLAIN THE INCREDIBLY HIGH CULTURE OF THIS CIVILIZATION?
OVER NINE HUNDRED YEARS, ROME HAS GROWN EXPONENTIALLY BY LEARNING FROM THE CULTURE OF THE ETRUSCANS, CARTHAGINIANS, AND GREEKS...
...BUT I LIKE THE THOUGHT OF BEING INFERIOR TO THEM IN TERMS OF CULTURE EVEN LESS...!
(STARE)
I SIMPLY CANNOT IMAGINE FROM THE LOOK OF THEM THAT THEY HAVE MILITARY MIGHT THAT COULD CRUSH OUR SUPERIOR FORCES...
HUH!? WHAT!?
...ARE MAKING ME ANGRY NOW!
I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG
THESE HUMBLE FLAT-FACED PEOPLE AND THEIR FRIENDLY ATTITUDES...
...ND HELP LEAD ROME TO EVEN GREATER HEIGHTS OF SOPHISTICATION!
I MUST BY ANY MEANS CREATE A BATHING ROOM FOR THE EMPEROR GREATER THAN THESE...
UM, SIR...
...BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT I CANNOT KEEP LEAVING THIS PLACE IN UTTER DEFEAT.
I DO NOT KNOW WHY THE GODS CONTINUE TO SEND ME TO THIS WORLD...
MINERVA, GODDESS OF WISDOM

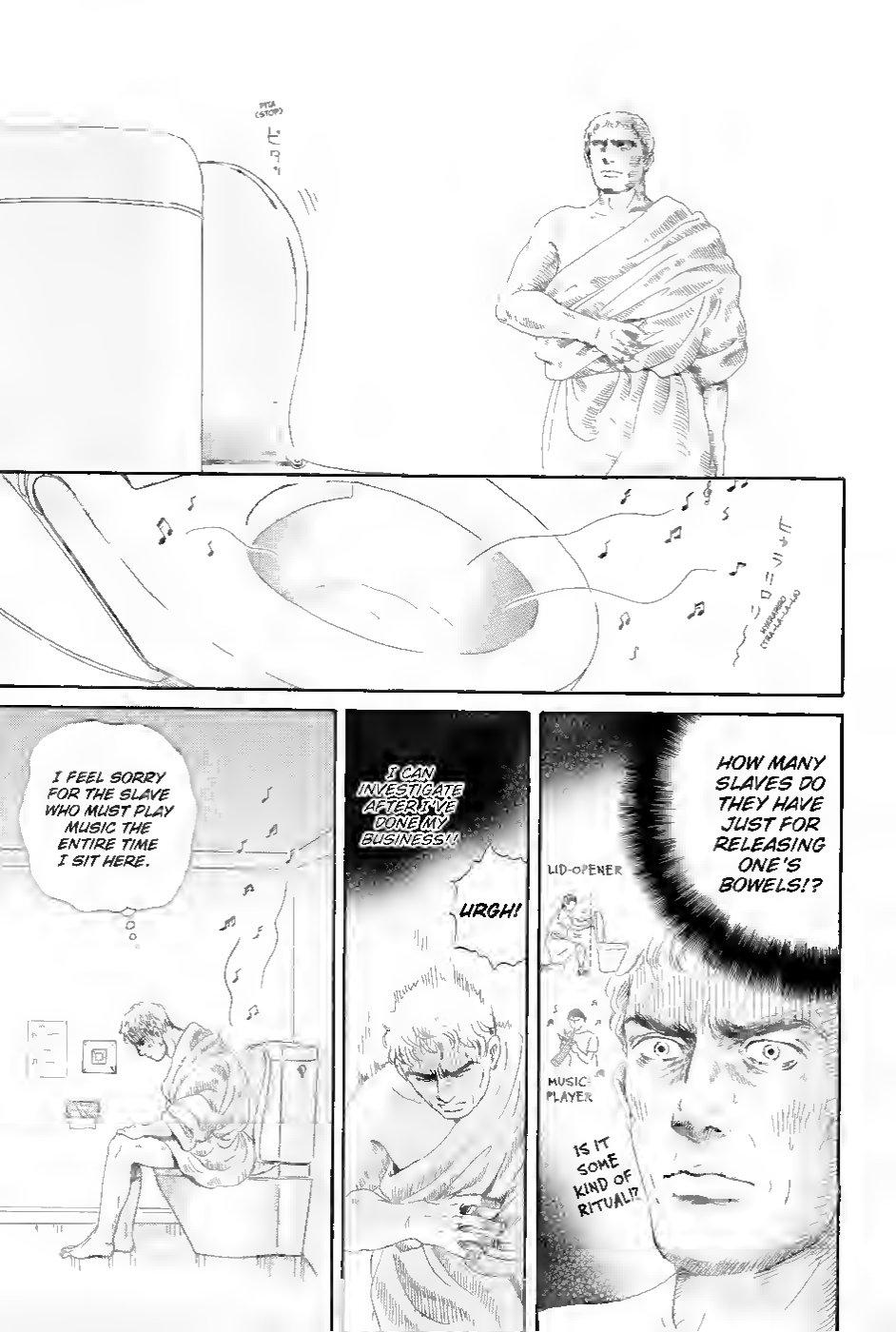

..
THIS IS A VERY POPULAR TYPE THESE DAYS...
DO THEY HAVE THESE IN ITALY TOO?
HAVE YOU ALREADY SEEN THIS?

SCREEN ANIMAL KINGDOM JELLYFISH MYSTERIES
HUH? HOW DO YOU GET IT TO PLAY SOUND...?


...SO THAT THE INTERIOR OF THE AQUARIUM CAN BE VIEWED FROM HERE...
IT'S LIKE THERE IS A WINDOW OF GLASS...
HMM, I CAN'T GET IT...
IS THERE AN AQUARIUM INSTALLED ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS WALL!?
HERE, SIR. WHY DON'T YOU GET IN AND SEE HOW IT LOOKS?
THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE WATCHING TV AS YOU ENJOY A NICE, RELAXING SOAK.
HEE HEE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SO THIS SLAVE THINKS SHE CAN TAUNT ME WITH HER FRIVOLOUS WALL AQUARIUM?
HMPH..

...IS COMPLETELY BEYOND MY ABILITY TO CONCEIVE ON MY OWN... ALL I CAN DO IS MIMIC OTHERS OR FOLLOW THE STANDARDS I'VE BEEN TAUGHT...
...OR THE IDEA TO CREATE A BATHING SPACE OF THIS SHAPE TO MAXIMIZE USE OF A TIGHT AREA...
.IS THAT THE IDEA TO PLACE ANYTHING ASIDE FROM PAINTINGS OR SCULPTURES IN THE BATHING ROOM...
THE ONE THING I'M CERTAIN OF
URRGH...
WH-WHAT'S WRONG!?
I AM UNFIT FOR THIS JOB.
I AM NOTHING LIKE THE CALIBER OF MAN THAT EMPEROR HADRIAN TAKES ME FOR...
OH, DAMN.. MY STOMACH AGAIN!
ARE YOU ASKING ABOUT.. THE TOILET..?
UMMM ...?
GURGLES (GURGLE)
IN QUANAM PARTE LATRINA EST? WHERE IS THE TOILET?
LATRINA! THE TOILET!

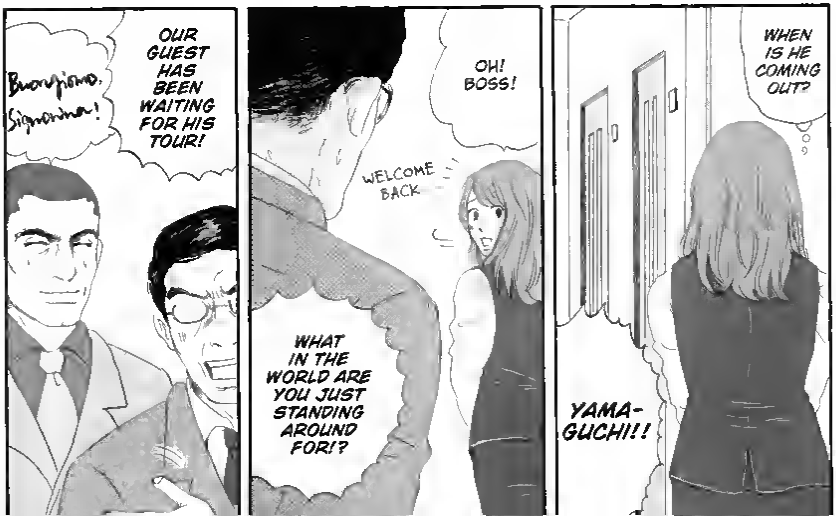

EACH TOILET HAS ITS OWN ROOM ..
……
W C
HAVE THESE PEOPLE NEVER RECEIVED A PROPER TRAINING IN LATIN...?
THE BATHROOM IS THIS WAY..
IT HAS A LID TO HIDE THE HOLE...
WHAT!? IS THIS OBJECT IN THE CENTER THEIR LATRINE?
GACHA (CLICK)
ガチャ
DO THEY HAVE NO CUSTOM OF SPEAKING WITH THE MAN ADJACENT AS NATURE TAKES ITS COURSE...?
ヴィ
VUIIIN (VWEEE)
...BUT FOR A MAN IN A HURRY, IT IS NOTHING BUT A BOTHER...
IT SEEMS USEFUL, PERHAPS...
TA (TAP)
タ


I FEEL SORRY FOR THE SLAVE WHO MUST PLAY MUSIC THE ENTIRE TIME I SIT HERE.
I CAN INVESTIGATE AFTER I'VE DONE MY BUSINESS!!
URGH!
HOW MANY SLAVES DO THEY HAVE JUST FOR RELEASING ONE'S BOWELS!?
LID-OPENER
MUSIC PLAYER
IS IT SOME KIND OF RITUAL!?

HMM?
SPONGE
STICK
DO THEY NOT WIPE THEM-SELVES WITH SEA SPONGES HERE?
KHORO (GLANCE)
MUCH BETTER!
AHH...
PYUUN (FLYING)
※"WONDER WAVE" SETTING
YUUUN (CHIMING)
DOES THIS REPRESENT SOMETHING STRIKING A MAN'S BUTTOCKS ...?
GO (FLYING)
GA (GLARE)
WHAT WAS THAT FOR!?
POCA (STRIKE)
INSO-LENT KNAVE!!

A FOUNTAIN..?
JAAA (FLUSH)
しゃー
HUFF HUFF
HUFF
WOULD BE MUCH CLEANER THAN THE PRACTICE OF SOAKING A SPONGE, WIPING, THEN REUSING IT..
TRUE, SUCH A FOUNTAIN, IF EFFICACIOUS..
WAS THE WATER THAT HIT MY ANUS MEANT TO BE A CLEANSING FUNCTION...?
.....
..ONE MORE TRY?
SHALL I GIVE IT..
ギン (GINN)
60 フ～

I COULD GET USED TO THIS...


Buongiorno, Signorina!
OUR GUEST HAS BEEN WAITING FOR HIS TOUR!
OH! BOSS!
WELCOME BACK
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU JUST STANDING AROUND FOR!?
WHEN IS HE COMING OUT?
YAMA-GUCHI!!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
IT'S COM-PLETELY EMPTY!!
B-B-BUT.. THE ITALIAN W-WAS JUST IN THE BATHROOM...
BATH-ROOM !?
HUH !!?
WHAT ..?
IF YOU HAD NOT BEEN FOUND FLOATING FACE-DOWN IN THE MOAT BACK THEN...

IT SHAMES ME TO ADMIT IT...
...I MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD THE PLEASURE OF SOAKING IN MY OWN BATH WITH JELLYFISH TO WATCH...
ALL THAT MATTERS IS THAT YOU LIVE ON!
I AM... HONORED...
THIS WILL GIVE ME THE PROPER BALANCE OF BODY AND MIND NECESSARY BEFORE I LEAVE FOR JERUSALEM...
PHEW
EVEN SO, I NEVER THOUGHT THE SIGHT OF JELLYFISH WOULD BRING ME SUCH PEACE...
YOU HAVE MY THANKS, ENGINEER LUCIUS!

IT PLEASES ME TO KNOW THAT NOT ALL OF MY COUNTRYMEN SIMPLY RECYCLE THE IDEAS OF OTHER NATIONS!

...THIS SPECIAL CLEANSING LATRINE IS A SPLENDID IDEA!
AND NOT JUST THE JELLY-FISH..
CHLORO (SPRINKLE)
CHORO

IT IS HARD TO BEAR THE INCREDIBLE GUILT I FEEL... BUT THIS IS ALL FOR THE SAKE OF ROME...
NO DOUBT EVEN THE GREATEST OF THE GREEKS NEVER THOUGHT TO BATHE WHILE GAZING UPON AN AQUARIUM! HA-HA-HA!

YES?
...BY THE WAY, LUCIUS...
...WOULD YOU...

IF THIS ULTIMATELY RESULTS IN A STEP FORWARD FOR OUR CULTURE, THEN IT WILL ALL HAVE BEEN WORTH IT..
ZABA (GLOSSO)
BIOMA (SPLAT)

HUH?
...TRAVEL WITH ME?
GYU (SQUEEZE)
HOKA
HOKA (PUFF)
ER... BUT...
PLEASE! FOR THE SAKE OF THE EMPIRE!
...
WILL YOU COME WITH ME TO JERUSALEM?
YOUR PRESENCE WOULD BE A GREAT REASSURANCE TO ME!
*HADRIAN'S HOMOSEXUAL TENDENCIES WERE WELL KNOWN AT THE TIME
PERHAPS OUR EMPEROR HAS FOUND HIMSELF A NEW PLAY-THING! HA-HA!
HOW LONG HAS THAT ENGINEER BEEN STAYING HERE? WILL HE EVER RETURN TO ROME?
OH NO... WHAT SHOULD I DO?

If one were to express Emperor Hadrian's physical qualities as simply as possible, one might say that he was the first emperor to popularize the beard and was tall and elegant in manner. Hadrian's successors to the throne followed his lead in wearing beards, but some say that his original purpose for the whiskers was to hide a facial scar. As for his personality, well, there are mountains of books written on that very subject, so you'll be able to get a better idea if you read them, but in general, he is known as the emperor who loved culture and art more than warfare.

It is clear that Hadrian avoided war as best he could, personally traveling around the many regions that his predecessor, Trajan, conquered in expanding the Roman Empire's borders to the widest they would ever be, pouring his energy into maintaining the empire's internal balance, and proving himself worthy of his reputation as a "Good Emperor."

But the more books I read about Hadrian, the more I thought, "Oh, he seems like a wonderful friend, but an incredible pain of a relative," a category to which Leonardo da Vinci also belongs. He was, in a phrase, a self-absorbed genius. A lover of nature ever since his childhood, Hadrian was bursting with creative and adventurous ideas, combined with a self-sufficiency that made him determined to do everything himself, rather than leave it to others.

Of course, Hadrian was a product of the age of Rome in which a proper balance of all things physical and mental was crucial, so he was likely limited in what he could reasonably get away with. But all it

The "circular theater" of Hadrian's mansion. Its actual purpose is still unknown (Tivoli, Italy)

Hadrian, one of the Five Good Emperors

takes is one look at his incredible self-designed estate outside of Rome to understand the abnormal energy and endless sensibilities that he possessed.

On that estate, Hadrian combined all manner of things that he saw and enjoyed in his tours of the empire's provinces. The novelty and excitement of his arrangements bring to mind the mischievous creativity of a child who builds his own forts in the neighborhood's empty lots, spurred by dreams and impulses he is helpless to contain.

While such a man naturally has many faults, he is now known fondly as one of the Five Good Emperors of Rome, a refined man of elegance and culture. But it is his reputation among the rulers of the Roman Empire as a man in love with baths that makes me think he would have quite a time if he could visit Japan today.

In order to draw this chapter, I paid a visit to the showroom of a bath supply retailer in Shinjuku on a hot summer day with Editor in Chief Okumura of *Comic Beam*.

When he saw the empty bathtubs, he said, "You can't tell a thing about these unless you get in them," sprawling out in the bone-dry tanks in various poses of relaxation, testing out all of their features. As I took pictures of him, I thought to myself, "I'm sure Hadrian would do the exact same thing if he came here. In the end, he wouldn't give a care in the world for the stares of the others in the room..." Perhaps my editor would have been fast friends with Hadrian, if they'd ever met face-to-face.

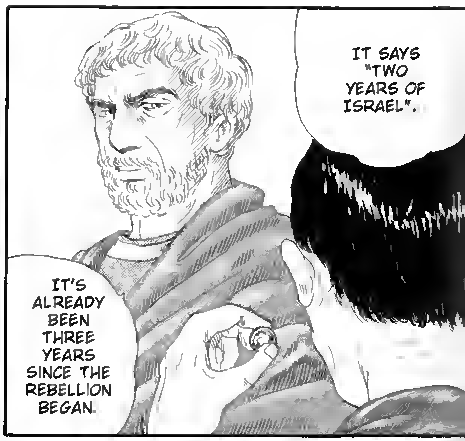
Editor in Chief Okumura relaxing in the showroom

Editor in Chief Okumura testing features in the showroom

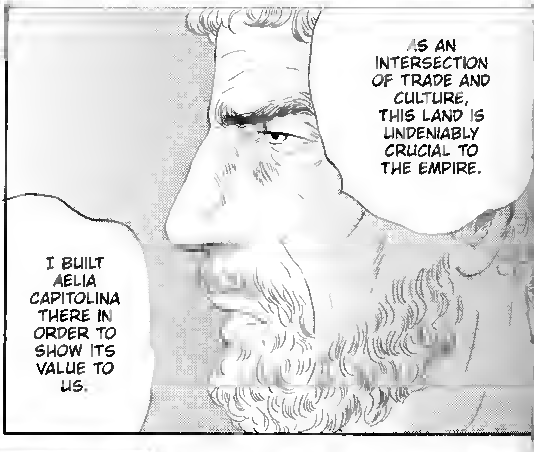
ROMAN PROVINCE OF JUDEA, 134 AD
Chapter 5
LEGION TEN, JERUSALEM
SO COULD I...
I COULD REALLY USE A BATH...

BAR KOKHBA REVOLT
COUNTERMEASURES HQ
LEG X
HMM?
THIS COIN ORIGINALLY HAD MY FACE STAMPED ON THE FRONT, BUT IT'S BEEN POUNDED ENTIRELY FLAT.
LOOK AT THIS, GENERAL SEVERUS.

THREE YEARS
AND THEY STILL SHOW NO SIGNS OF ACCEPTING MY REASONING


IT SAYS "TWO YEARS OF ISRAEL".
IT'S ALREADY BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE THE REBELLION BEGAN.

IF ONLY I'D KNOWN THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO THIS TERRIBLE REVOLT...


AS AN INTERSECTION OF TRADE AND CULTURE, THIS LAND IS UNDENIABLY CRUCIAL TO THE EMPIRE.
I BUILT AELIA CAPITOLINA THERE IN ORDER TO SHOW ITS VALUE TO US.

I AM NO LONGER YOUNG OR HEALTHY
I DO NOT WISH TO SPEND THE VALUABLE DAYS I HAVE REMAINING ON MATTERS OF WAR, SEVERUS...

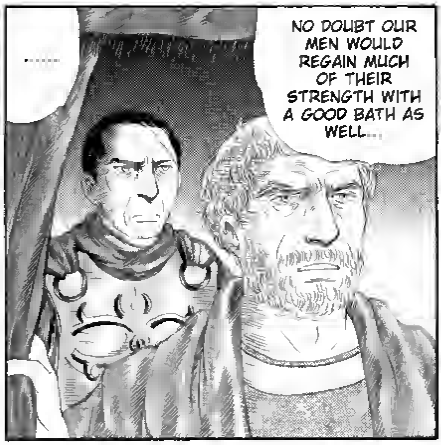
WHAT A DISASTER!
...YOUR HIGH-NESS...

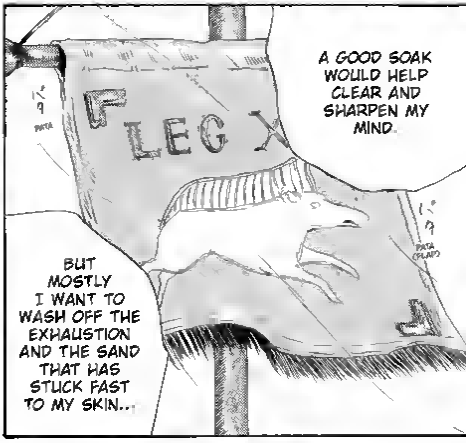
APOLLODORUS'S NEW BALLISTA HAS SHOWN GREAT EFFICACY AS WELL...
YES, I SUPPOSE...
BE AT EASE, IMPERATOR!
WE HAVE EIGHT LEGIONS FROM AROUND THE EMPIRE ASSEMBLING TODAY. IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE JERUSALEM FALLS!
AT ANY RATE!
I AM RELYING ON YOUR SKILL, GENERAL SEVERUS!
I HAD THOUGHT THAT APOLLODORUS WAS TOO OLD TO BE OF USE ANYMORE...
...BUT IT SEEMS THE CREATIVE JUICES STILL FLOW IN HIS MIND.
...WHAT OF THE SOLDIERS WHO DRANK THAT WINE POISONED BY THE JEWS?
HOW ARE THEY FARING?
YOU ARE TOO KIND, IMPERATOR!
I WANT YOU TO EXHIBIT THE SAME MILITARY BRILLIANCE THAT MADE YOUR TIME IN BRITANNIA SO SUCCESSFUL!

THE BODY DOES FALL UNDER A CHILL AS IT WEAKENS...
...THEY ALL UNIVERSALLY MOAN ABOUT THE NEED TO BATHE
A FEW STILL SUFFER CRAMPS AND VOMITING SPELLS, BUT...
A BATH!!
KOFF!
KOFF
KOFF!
MY TIME IS RUNNING OUT...

...CAN NO LONGER STAND THIS LIFE WITHOUT BATHING!!

I TOO...
PAR-DON!?


.....
NO DOUBT OUR MEN WOULD REGAIN MUCH OF THEIR STRENGTH WITH A GOOD BATH AS WELL...

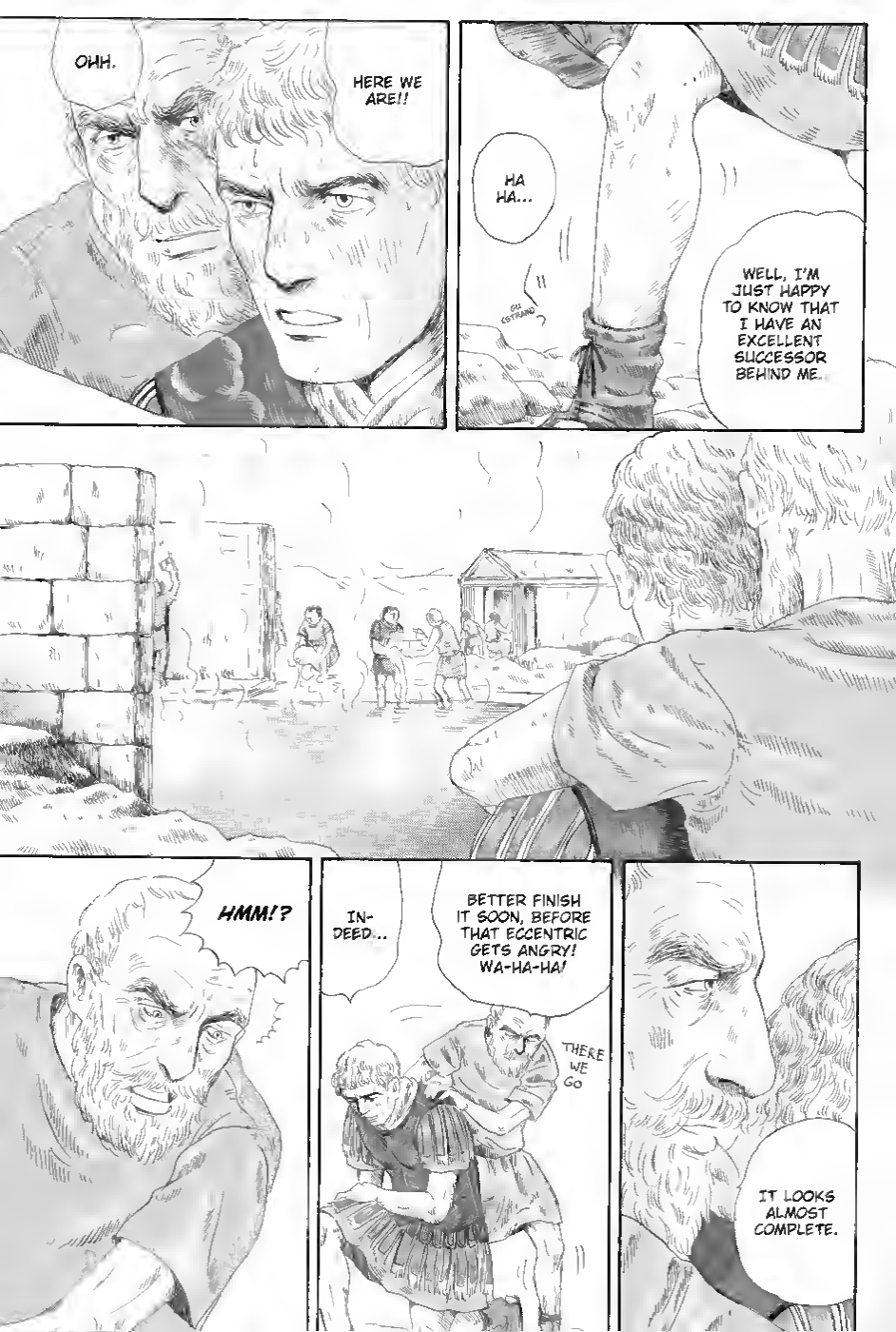

A GOOD SOAK WOULD HELP CLEAR AND SHARPEN MY MIND.
BUT MOSTLY I WANT TO WASH OFF THE EXHAUSTION AND THE SAND THAT HAS STUCK FAST TO MY SKIN...

IN FACT...
...OUR THERMAE IS NEARLY FINISHED.

BUT IMPERATOR, IN THIS LAND OF SAND AND ROCKS—
WRONG!

I HAVE BROUGHT A BRILLIANT ARCHITECT FROM ROME...
HE'S ALREADY DISCOVERED A SPRING AND STARTED CONSTRUCTION AROUND IT.
.....
WHAT!? YOU HAVE BEEN BUILDING A THERMAE IN THIS DESERT!?
INDEED.
WHEN IT IS FINISHED, YOU SHOULD WASH AWAY YOUR FATIGUE THERE, GENERAL SEVERUS.
THE THERMAE IS THE SOURCE OF ROMAN STRENGTH..
WHAT FORESIGHT YOU POSSESS!!
BRIL-LIANT, HIGH-NESS!!
MMM
I SHALL, AND GRATE-FULLY!
WE'RE ALL [illegible] ON YOU, LUCIUS!

I AM SO SORRY...
...LUCIUS...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WE'RE ALMOST THERE!
I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY!
..BUT I DO HATE THE BATTLEFIELD SO
I WISH THAT I HAD NOT DEMANDED YOU TAKE ME WITH YOU...
IF ONLY MY LEGS WERE STILL STRONG, I COULD WALK FOR MYSELF...
DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU, APOLLODORUS!
YES .. AND YOUR BALLISTAE PERFORM THEIR FUNCTIONS ADMIRABLY...
HUFF
HUFF
I SHOULD BE FREE TO DO AS I WISH NOW! ISN'T THAT RIGHT!?
...BUT I'VE DONE WHAT I CAME HERE TO DO...
HUFF


OHH.
HERE WE ARE!!
HA HA...
GO GOTHARD
WELL, I'M JUST HAPPY TO KNOW THAT I HAVE AN EXCELLENT SUCCESSOR BEHIND ME.
HMM!?
IN-DEED...
BETTER FINISH IT SOON, BEFORE THAT ECCENTRIC GETS ANGRY! WA-HA-HA!
THERE WE GO
IT LOOKS ALMOST COMPLETE.

OHHH!!
HOKA (STEAM)
ホカ
ホカ
HOKA
YES, THE ROCKS IN THIS AREA ARE WARMED BY THE EARTH'S HEAT.
MY WORD... THE GROUND HERE IS WARM!
COME AND WARM YOURSELF IN THE WATER!
DON'T BOTHER WITH THOSE ROUGH, HARD STONES, APOLLODORUS!
COME AND LIE HERE!
AHHH THIS WARMTH FEELS GOOD ON MY SKIN.
IT IS STRANGE TO SEE THIS HOT SPRING IN SUCH A ROCKY PLACE.
BOKO
ボコ
ボコ
BOKO (BUBBLE)
THE NATURAL WORLD IS FULL OF MYSTERIES ...
THAT'S WHY I HAD YOU CARRY ME HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
GOOD IDEA...
GOKO (FALL)
WATCH YOUR STEP.

YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED YET!?
I'M SORRY, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH WORKERS...
.....
DON'T YOU AGREE, LUCIUS?
LUCIUS?
YES, BUT... THOSE ARE TOO BIG FOR ONE MAN TO LIFT...!
WE NEED THESE ROCKS MOVED, CORRECT?
VERY WELL.. I WILL HELP!
ごきっ
GOKI (CRACK)
!?
ふぅ
FUU (SIGH)
NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!
GOTO (THUNK)
GOTO
I CAN MANAGE ONE OR TWO OF THESE!!

M...MY BACK...
IT JUST...
WHAT HAP-PENED!?
AAAH!!
CONSTRUCTION IS ALREADY BEHIND ENOUGH, AND NOW MY BACK IS...
...
HOW EMBARRASSING THIS ALL IS...
I NEED... A LITTLE REST...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HE WAS JUST OVER THERE A MOMENT AGO...
HMM? I DON'T SEE APOLLO-DORUS..
... ..
PERHAPS I'M AT THE AGE WHERE I LOSE SIGHT OF MY ACTUAL STRENGTH...
WAS CARRYING APOLLODORUS ALL THAT WAY A MISTAKE. .?

WHERE COULD HE HAVE GONE...?
HEY! LUCIUS!
YOU, THERE. HAVE YOU SEEN APOLLODORUS?
ER...THE LAST I SAW, HE WAS SOAKING IN THE WATER OVER THERE.
ぐっ
GUKK (CRUNCH)
URGH!
DON'T GO THAT WAY UNTIL WE'VE HAD TIME TO...
BE CAREFUL, APOLLODORUS! IT'S DEEP ON THAT END!
I'M RIGHT OVER HERE!
WA HA HA
ばしゃん
BASSHAN (SPLASH)
OH! HE FELL IN!!
WHOA!
ズルッ
ZURU (SLIP)

TOHOKU REGION OF JAPAN, 2009 AD
BOKU
BOKU (SELLING)
HE TRIED TO GET UP ON HIS FEET, BUT HIS POOR LEG WERE BENT ALL FUNNY...
JA (CRUSHING)
AN' THE NEXT THING HE KNEW, HE'D BEEN TOSSED STRAIGHT OUT THE TRUCK...
SEE? THIS IS WHY I CAIN'T QUIT THE HOT SPRING LIFE.
OH MY! THANKS, DEAR.
GA HA HA HA!
GOT SOME BAMBOO SHOOTS HERE. LET'S SKIN 'EM UP AND EAT 'EM!
KASA (HUSTLE)
SEE? THE HOT SPRING WORKS BETTER THAN DOCTORS.
ALL TH' DOCTORS GAVE UP ON HIM. WEREN'T 'TIL WE CAME HERE THAT HE COULD WALK AGIN.
LOOK, LADIES!

YEP... GONNA RINSE OFF THE SWEAT.
OH! YOU'RE AWAKE, DEAR.
CAN YA MAKE IT ALONE WITHOUT HELP?
AND I GOT A WHOLE BUNCH!
THESE'LL BE GREAT BOILED WITH SOY SAUCE!
ガラッ
GARA (CLANK)

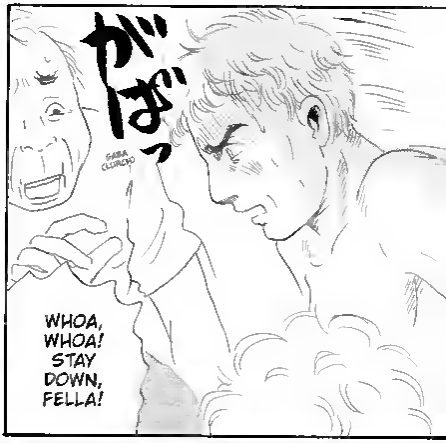
DOOR: MEN

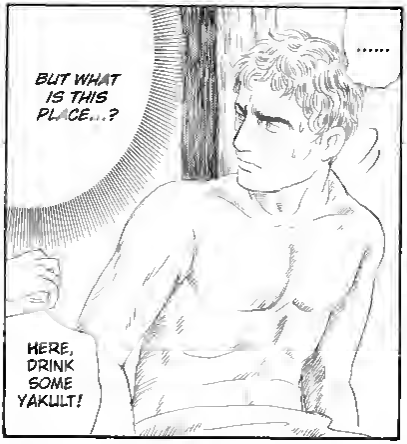
SIGN: INDOOR BATH

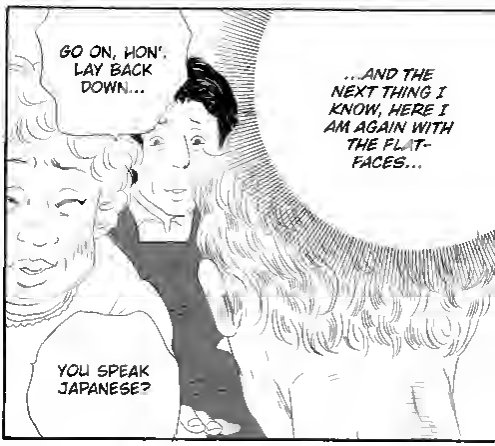
SOMEONE'S DROWNIN'!!
AAAH!
HE'S FOR-EIGN!!
YOU ALL RIGHT!?
HEY! HEY, YOU!
ズル
ZURU
ズル
ZURU
CAN'T LIFT HIM MESELF!
DURN IT, HE'S HEAVY!!
YOU DEAD!?
H-HEY, YOU!

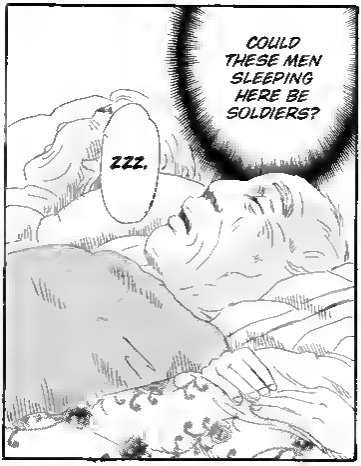
温泉効能
泉質 ナトリウム、カルシウム
塩化物温泉
効能 きりきず、筋肉痛
やけど、神経痛、疲
疲労回復、関節痛
冷え症
SOMEBODY HELLLP!!
'EYYY! SOME-ONE COME QUICK!
SIGN: HOT SPRING FEATURES / RICH IN: SODIUM, CALCIUM, CHLORIDES / HELPS WITH: CUTS, MUSCLE ACHES, BURNS, NERVE PAIN, FATIGUE, JOINT PAIN, CHILLS
パチ
PACHI
SHUN (FSH)
SHUN
SHUN
... ...
HIS EYES ARE OPEN! THANK GOODNESS!
AH! HE'S AWAKE!

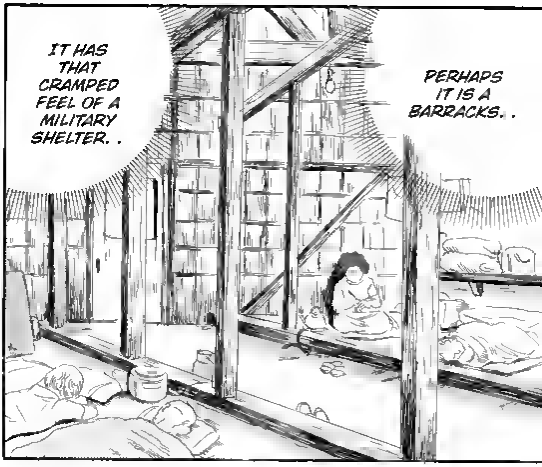
I WAS APPROACHING APOLLODORUS, THEN I SLIPPED AND FELL IN...
.....


がぼっ
GABA CLUNGS
WHOA, WHOA! STAY DOWN, FELLA!


BUT WHAT IS THIS PLACE...?
.....
HERE, DRINK SOME YAKULT!


GO ON, HON', LAY BACK DOWN...
...AND THE NEXT THING I KNOW, HERE I AM AGAIN WITH THE FLAT-FACES...
YOU SPEAK JAPANESE?


COULD THESE MEN SLEEPING HERE BE SOLDIERS?
ZZZ.


IT HAS THAT CRAMPED FEEL OF A MILITARY SHELTER. .
PERHAPS IT IS A BARRACKS. .

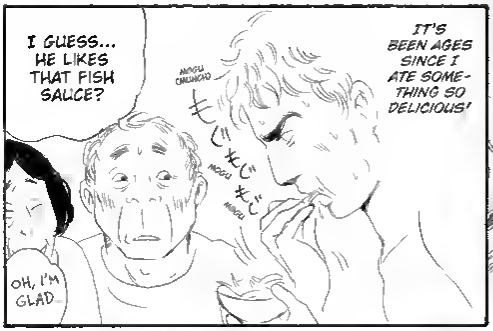
WHERE YA GOIN'?
I'LL HAVE TO GO INSPECT IT FOR MYSELF!!
IS THERE A SPRING OF WATER NEARBY...?
HMM? I SENSE A FAINT SCENT OF MINERAL WATER...
I JUS' TOLDJA NOT TA STAND UP!
.....
UH-OH! THIS FOREIGN FELLA'S BACK'S IN BAD SHAPE!
THAT AIN'T HOW YA DO HOT SPRING THERAPY!
ぐぃっ
GUH! (GRUNT)
HRGH!
THE HEAT'LL DO WONDERS ON YER BACK!
VERY WELL, I'LL INSPECT IT AFTER I TAKE A SHORT REST!
NNGH..
LAY DOWN! LAY DOWN AND YE'LL FEEL BETTER!
THERE YA GO. THIS IS THE BEST HOT STONE FLOOR IN JAPAN!

IS THAT WHY THESE MEN ARE HERE? TO LIE AND SLEEP ON THIS WARMED FLOOR...?
.....
THE FLOOR HERE IS VERY WARM...
.....
..TO LIE ON THOSE WARMED ROCKS?
WAIT, DIDN'T APOL-LODORUS SAY THAT IT FELT GOOD..
WHY IS IT SO WARM...?
EASY, EASY! DON'T GO FOOLIN' WITH THE STRAW MATS!
THEY MUST HAVE CONSTRUCTED THIS BUILDING ON TOP OF A HEATED AREA LIKE THOSE ROCKS IN JUDEA!
BERI (PEEL)
BERI
BERI
がばっ
GABA (CLUTCH!)
GEO-THERMAL HEAT!?
HE'S POPPIN' UP AGAIN! SETTLE DOWN, YOU!

.....
LOOK, I KNOW THIS PROLLY ALL SEEMS STRANGE AN' UNFAMILIAR TO YA, BUT YE GOTTA GET YER CURIOSITY UNDER CONTROL!
IF YE WANT THERAPY..
...THEN QUIT HOPPIN' AROUND AND JUST LIE DOWN!
IT DOES SEEM AS THOUGH LYING HERE IS IMPROVING MY CIRCULATION AND EASING MY BACK PAIN
GARAZI (SHUNK)
ガラリ
HYOKO (HORRIBLE)
ヒョコ
ヒョコ

...TO BE COVERED WITH SCARS ALL OVER..
THAT MAN SEEMS...
L-LOOK AT THOSE SCARS!!
HE ONLY GOT HIS LEGS BACK AFTER A LOTTA THERAPY RIGHT HERE.
HE MUST BE THE EQUIVALENT OF ONE OF OUR CENTURIONS!
.....
I'VE NEVER SEEN A ROMAN SOLDIER SO SCARRED WHO WAS STILL ABLE TO WALK
OH, HIM? HE GOT INTO A TRUCK ACCIDENT JUST ABOUT CRUSHED ALL 'IS BONES.
!!
STILL GOT A PIECE O' METAL IN THERE.
CLIMBED UP ON THE ROOF TA FIX A LEAK, AN' I FELL PLUM OFF ..
SAME GOES FOR MY FOOT.

COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
NOT ALL OF THEM ARE WOUNDED SOLDIERS..
NO, WAIT..
THE WATER HELPS WITH THE INJURY, AN' THE HEATED FLOORS IMPROVE MY CIRCULATION!
THEY'RE ALL BATTLE-SCARRED VETERANS!!
BUT IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT THIS IS A PLACE FOR PEOPLE WITH INFIRM BODIES...
HAVE SOME RECUPERATIVE EFFECT ON WOUNDS AND ILLNESS!?
DOES THAT MEAN THE HEAT AND MINERAL WATER HERE...
GARLIM!?
TAKE IT EASY! YA DON'T GOTTA FORCE YERSELF!
STOP IT, HONEY! HE WON'T LIKE THAT!
YOU DON'T THINK SO?
HMM? IS THIS SCENT WHAT I THINK IT IS?
FLAVORED WITH FISH SAUCE
HERE YA GO! WANT SOME BOILED BAMBOO SHOOTS?


I GUESS... HE LIKES THAT FISH SAUCE?
MOGU CHUNCHO
もぐ もぐ もぐ
MOGU MOGU MOGU
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I ATE SOMETHING SO DELICIOUS!
OH, I'M GLAD.

IT'S A TASTE OF ROME!!

BWA-HA-HA!
SLOW DOWN, YOU'LL GET A STOMACH-ACHE!
.....

IT'S MY HOME-MADE DOBU-ROKU.
IT'LL GO WITH THAT SAUCE.

HERE, PAL. DRINK THIS!
CHAPU CHUGOKU
ちゃぷ

...I CANNOT TURN HIM DOWN...
IF THIS PROUD VETERAN SUGGESTS IT...
KUI (GRIP)

GO ON, TRY A LITTLE!
HMM, YOU THINK FOREIGNER-SAN HERE WILL UNDER-STAND DOBUROKU?

.....
GOOD!?
WHATCHA THINK!? GOOD!?
GOKU GGULP
うおぇーっ
BLAAARGH!
JABAA GEPLORSHO
AAAH!
THEY'VE POISONED ME!!
IT'S POISON!
HACK
KOFF
HUFF...
HUFF
AW, DAMN! THIS IS TOO OLD!
I MIS-READ THIS MAN..
WRONG BOTTLE
TAJAN CHUPPO
WAS IT TOO STRONG!?
Y-YOU OKAY!?
URRGH..

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CAUTIOUS!!
BIG MISTAKE..
THIS ONE'S GONE BAD!
HOW CARELESS COULD I BE!?
...AND FOUGHT AS A SOLDIER...
I ONCE ANSWERED THE CALL TO THE LEGION BASE...
HE KNEW OF OUR ACUTE WEAK-NESS.
AND THIS MAN KNEW ALL THAT!!
WITHOUT THAT THERMAE, EASING THE FATIGUE OF ROME'S SOLDIERS BECOMES VASTLY MORE DIFFICULT...
...AND NOW I AM AN ENGINEER BUILDING A THERMAE FOR THE SAKE OF OUR SOLDIERS...
CUP: LONG LIFE
HERE! GIVE 'IM THIS!!
...THAT IF HE KILLED ME, IT COULD LEAD TO DISASTER FOR THE EMPIRE!!

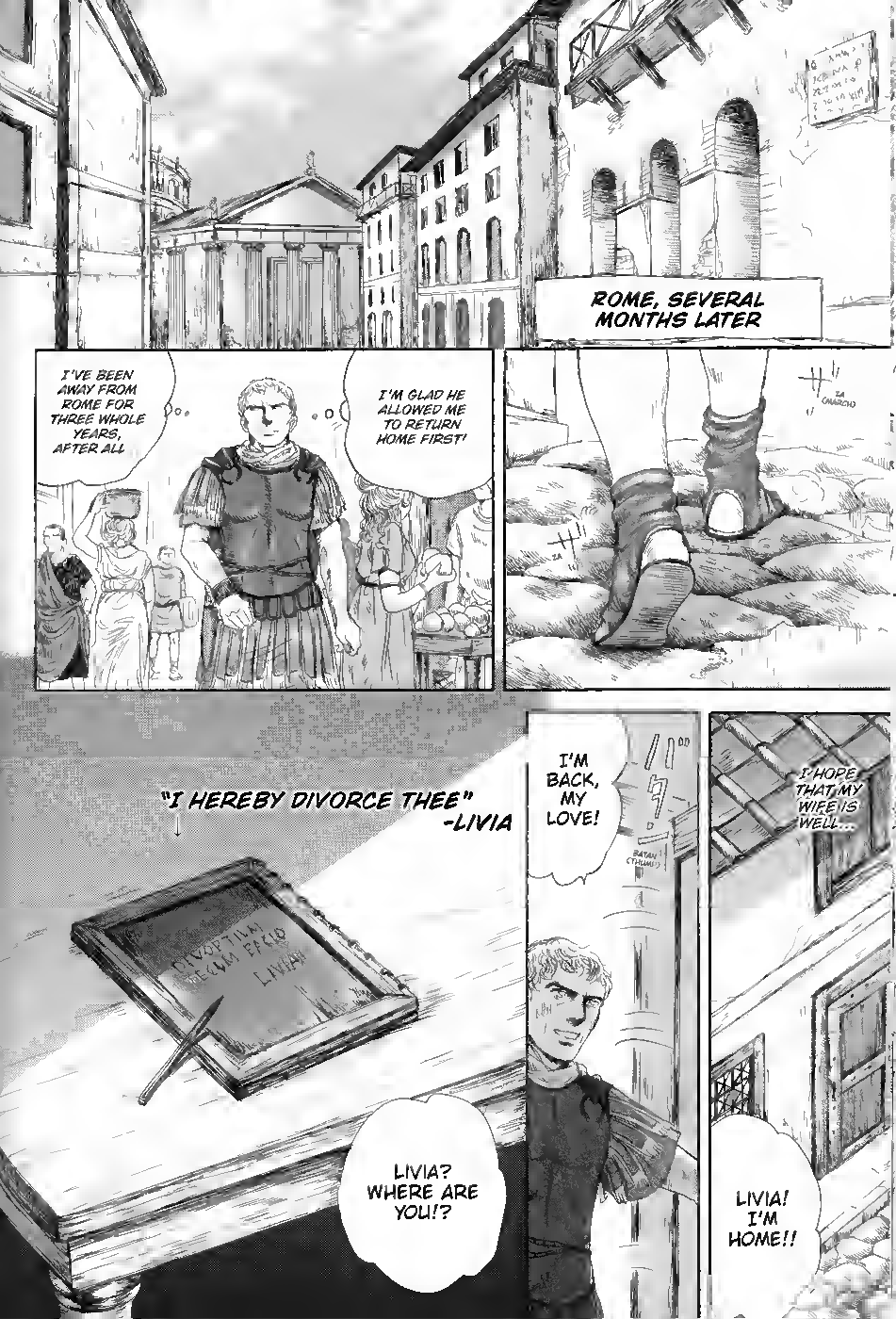
KOFF KOFF KOFF!!
GOKU (DRINKS)
ゴクッ
WHA —!?
THIS'LL FIX YA RIGHT UP!
S-SETTLE DOWN, FRIEND...
S...
QUID FACITIS!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
YOU... FEELIN' BETTER ...?
NOLITE ME INTERFICERE CONARI!!
YOU WILL NOT GET AWAY WITH THIS ATTEMPT ON MY LIFE!!
HUH...?
CUR HAEC AQUA SALSA EST!?
WHAT IS THIS SALTY WATER FOR!?

IT'LL FLUSH THE TOXINS IN YER STOMACH!
THIS IS A SODIUM HOT SPRING
!!
I'M BETTER!!
IT SEEMS TO HAVE THE SAME SALT CONTENT THAT JERUSA-LEM'S SPRING DOES..
. IT'S SALTY..
SO IT WAS THE NATURAL WATER OF THE SPRING THEY GAVE ME...
GOLLY, I'M SURE SORRY ABOUT THAT MIX-UP!
I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT DRINKING IT WOULD HAVE ANY EFFECT...
DOOR: MEN
男
AHHH.
WELP, ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL!

MOWA (STEAM)
もわ
MOWA
もわ
HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR...
I'LL FIND YA SOMETHIN' BETTER TO DRINK THIS TIME...
BWA HA HA HA!
THE FIRST TIME I LAID EYES ON YA FLOATIN' IN THE WATER, BOY, I NEARLY HAD A HEART ATTACK!
WH- WHERE'D HE GO!?
HE'S GONE!!
...HMM?
UH...
SHADOW (SHIMOJIMA)
シモジマ

THANK THE GODS THIS HOT SPRING HEALED OUR AILMENTS!!
WE CAN FINALLY GO BACK TO ROME!
THREE CHEERS FOR THE FALL OF JERUSALEM!!
WA HA HA HA HA!
WA CHATTER
WAI
HA HA HA HA
LET'S GO TO THAT SHACK THAT WARMS UP YOUR BODY NEXT!
BETWEEN THIS MIRACLE BATH AND THAT INCREDIBLE SHACK, WHAT AN ENGINEER HE IS!
WELL, I DO HEAR HE'S THE EMPEROR'S NEW TOY..
HEH HEH HEH HEH!
YES, HIGH-NESS!
ENGINEER LUCIUS!
すぴ
SUPIN

I AM NOT WORTHY OF THIS PRAISE!
YOU DO ME TOO MUCH HONOR
INDEED.
WE WERE ONLY ABLE TO BRING DOWN JERUSALEM THANKS TO THE HEALING POWERS OF THIS THERMAE!
THANK YOU, GENERAL SEVERUS!
THANK YOU!
THIS IS QUITE AN ACCOMPLISHMENT.
WHEN WE RETURN TO ROME, I WOULD LIKE TO HOLD A FEAST IN YOUR HONOR.
LUCIUS MODESTUS
I CAN SEE WHY THE EMPEROR LIKES YOU SO MUCH!
HA HA HA
YOU ARE AS HUMBLE AS YOUR NAME SUGGESTS, MODESTUS!
.....
...WOULD BE THAT THIS FEAST HAPPEN...
...AFTER I SEE MY WIFE...
STORK? EEL? SIMPLY NAME YOUR HEART'S DESIRE!
ER.. MY .ONLY REQUEST...
I WILL SERVE ANYTHING YOU WISH TO EAT!

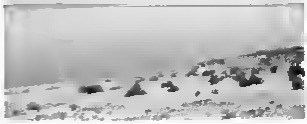

ROME, SEVERAL MONTHS LATER
I'VE BEEN AWAY FROM ROME FOR THREE WHOLE YEARS, AFTER ALL
I'M GLAD HE ALLOWED ME TO RETURN HOME FIRST!
"I HEREBY DIVORCE THEE"
-LIVIA
I'M BACK, MY LOVE!
I HOPE THAT MY WIFE IS WELL...
LIVIA? WHERE ARE YOU!?
LIVIA! I'M HOME!!

Most European hot springs are dotted with health facilities, typically featuring mineral water bottling plants and high-class spa resorts where the rich can spend a few days of rest and relaxation with the therapeutic effects of the mineral-rich water. I've been to a few of them, but they all require a doctor's prescription to enter, and only mineral water pools or saunas are open to the public at large. They're expensive, you have to wear a bathing suit, and all you can see around you are rich snobs. Even though the idea of the therapeutic use of hot springs is the same, the whole scene was surprisingly different from how it is in Japan.

However, upon doing my research, I discovered that the ancient Romans had a public-minded therapeutic bath style of their own. They built a special bath over a spring issuing from the rocks outside of Naples, and many people visited to cure their ills. Even the infamous Emperor Nero built a large-scale treatment bath in Campania and opened it to the public. Not only that, there were areas of the empire where hot sand baths in the sunamushi-buro style were popular among those suffering from tuberculosis and asthma. And this was over two thousand years ago.

These therapeutic facilities must have been considered a much more widespread public affair than the exclusive spas mentioned above, but alas, there are no physical remains left of them to examine.

A jaunty little hot spring resort in Portugal.



Staring at Jerusalem across the Dead Sea from Jordan. There are hot springs here, too.

In order to draw this story about therapeutic hot springs, I spent a few days in the hot springs-rich Tohoku region of Northern Japan with my manga artist friend, Ranjou Miyake-san. When I was a dirt-poor student in Italy, regularly threatened by the possibility of having my electricity, gas, and water shut off, I was incredibly fascinated with and inspired by the works of the great artist Yoshiharu Tsuge-san. I found myself desperately envious of these rustic and secluded hot springs that he often described in his works. If Italy was still in the same state as it was in ancient Roman times, no doubt I would have given up on my dream of being an artist and lived a transitory life, visiting its many public baths instead.

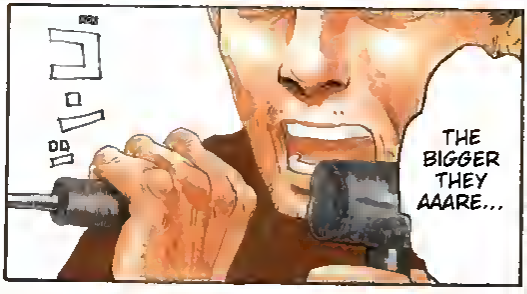
So in order to fulfill this pent-up longing, I went on a trip with Miyake-san through the Hachimantai and Nyuto hot springs of Akita Prefecture, where we soaked in the springs seven or eight times and rolled around in their heated chambers.

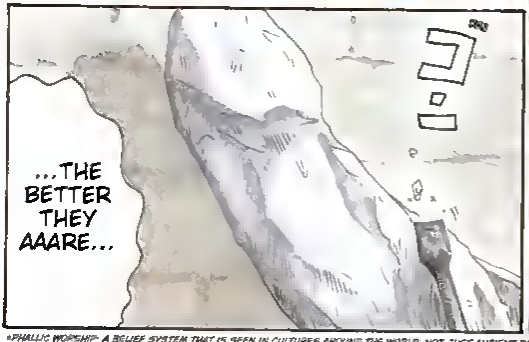
I should point out that we are both the picture of good health. No conditions, no injuries. It was only afterward that I felt guilty about taking up space in a tiny shack meant for the infirm, but I was able to see how the atmosphere of this place, where people gather to bask in the healing powers of the earth, possesses a kind of addicting allure.

I imagine the elderly in ancient Roman days would have cried with joy to feel that heat working on their bodies... Surely it would have helped prolong their lives. It was all I could think about as I lay on the warm straw mats.

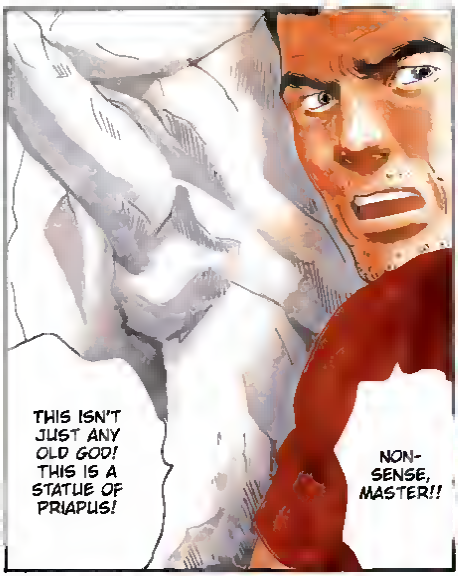
The black pool at the Nyuto Hot Springs in Tohoku.

The heating room at a therapeutic hot spring.

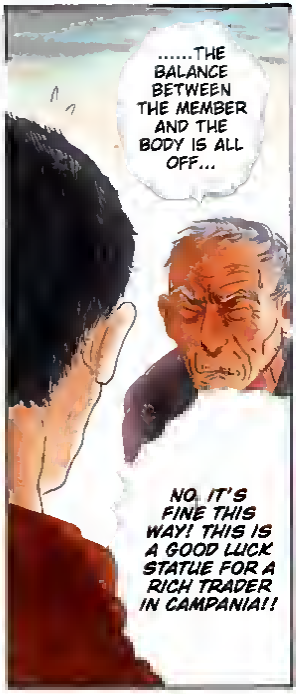


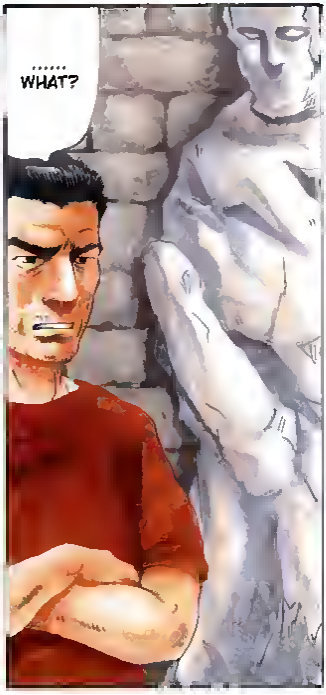


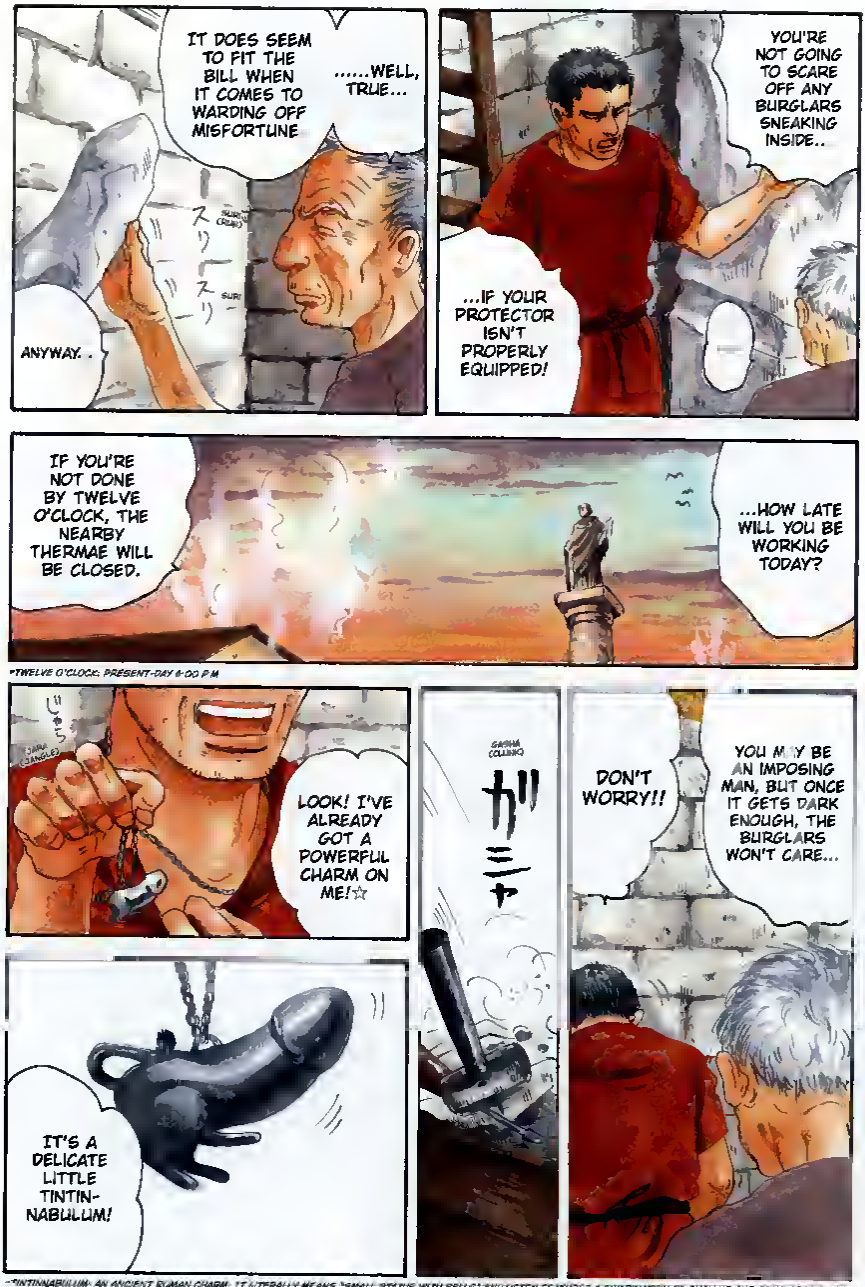
*PHALLIC WORSHIP: A BELIEF SYSTEM THAT IS SEEN IN CULTURES AROUND THE WORLD. NOT JUST ANCIENT ROME. JAPAN IS NOT AN EXCEPTION, OF COURSE. FOR MILLENNIA, HUMANS HAVE PRAYED TO STATUES OF PHALLUSES OR PHALLIC SYMBOLS TO ASK FOR BOUNTIFUL HARVESTS OR FERTILITY.



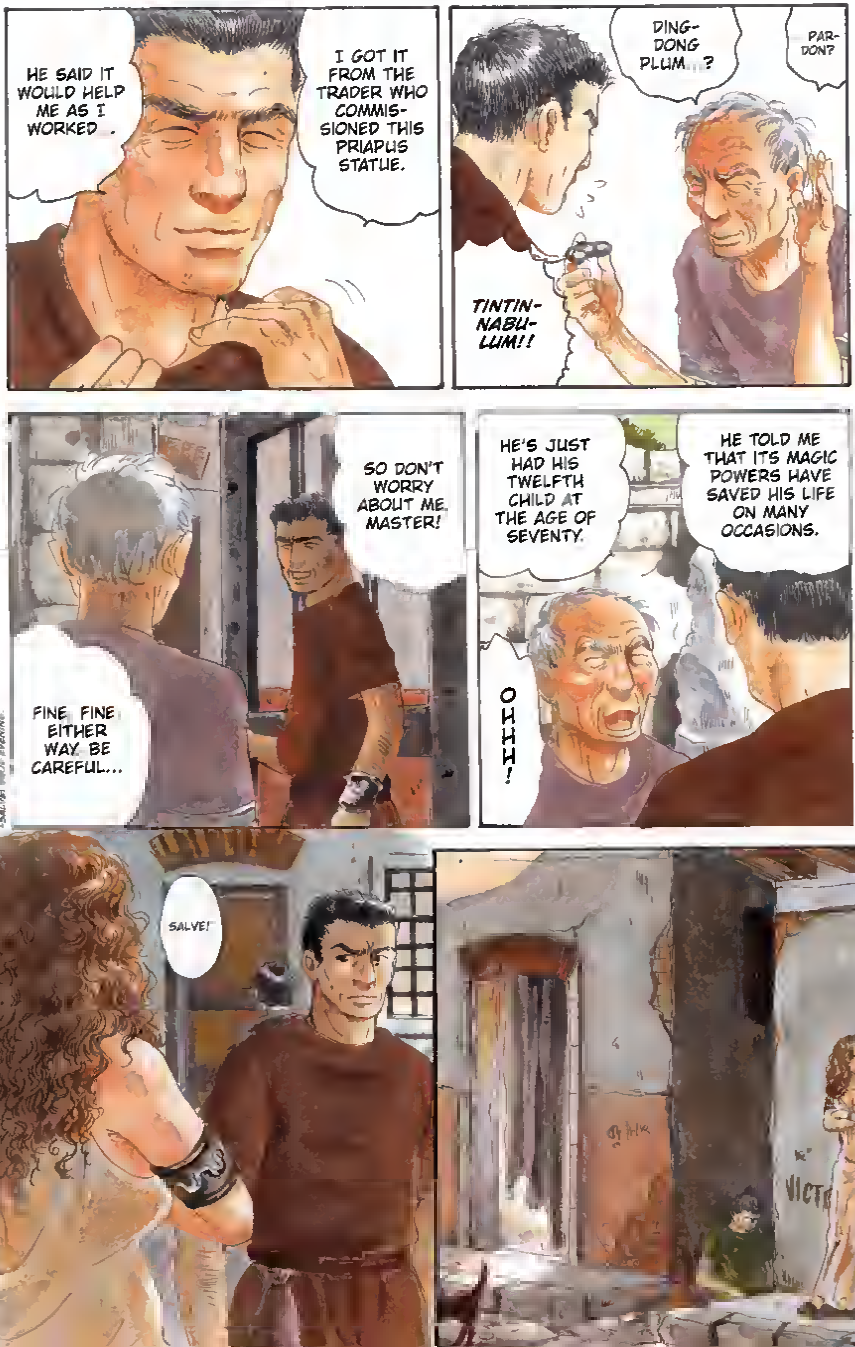
*PRIAPUS: THE MALE GREEK GOD OF FERTILITY.


.....THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE MEMBER AND THE BODY IS ALL OFF...
NO, IT'S FINE THIS WAY! THIS IS A GOOD LUCK STATUE FOR A RICH TRADER IN CAMPANIA!!




IT DOES SEEM TO FIT THE BILL WHEN IT COMES TO WARDING OFF MISFORTUNE
.....WELL, TRUE...
ANYWAY. .
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SCARE OFF ANY BURGLARS SNEAKING INSIDE..
...IF YOUR PROTECTOR ISN'T PROPERLY EQUIPPED!
IF YOU'RE NOT DONE BY TWELVE O'CLOCK, THE NEARBY THERMAE WILL BE CLOSED.
...HOW LATE WILL YOU BE WORKING TODAY?
*TWELVE O'CLOCK: PRESENT-DAY 6:00 P.M.
LOOK! I'VE ALREADY GOT A POWERFUL CHARM ON ME!☆
IT'S A DELICATE LITTLE TINTINNABULUM!
DON'T WORRY!!
YOU MAY BE AN IMPOSING MAN, BUT ONCE IT GETS DARK ENOUGH, THE BURGLARS WON'T CARE...

*TINTINNABULUM: AN ANCIENT ROMAN CHARM. IT LITERALLY MEANS "SMALL STATUE WITH BELLS" AND OFTEN FEATURES A COMBINATION OF PHALLUS AND SOME SPECIES OF BIRD OR BEAST. BASED ON THE NUMBER THAT HAVE BEEN EXCAVATED FROM RUINS, WE CAN ASSUME THAT THEY WERE QUITE POPULAR.


HE SAID IT WOULD HELP ME AS I WORKED .
I GOT IT FROM THE TRADER WHO COMMIS-SIONED THIS PRIAPUS STATUE.
DING-DONG PLUM...?
PAR-DON?
TINTIN-NABU-LUM!!
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, MASTER!
FINE, FINE! EITHER WAY, BE CAREFUL...
HE'S JUST HAD HIS TWELFTH CHILD AT THE AGE OF SEVENTY.
HE TOLD ME THAT IT'S MAGIC POWERS HAVE SAVED HIS LIFE ON MANY OCCASIONS.
OHHH!
SALVE!

I'LL GIVE YOU A DISCOUNT.
THEY SAY MY FELLATIO IS THE BEST IN THE EMPIRE. .
FEEL LIKE KILLING A LITTLE TIME WITH ME?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE BUILT FOR THE BUSINESS.
I'LL KEEP A TAB FOR YOU.
AWW
NO CAN'T AFFORD IT TODAY.
MAYBE NEXT TIME!
HARD TO RESIST AN OFFER LIKE THAT. . BUT HANG ON.
WELL? ♡
HEY! LUCIUS!
I HAVEN'T SEEN LUCIUS IN A WHILE MAYBE I'LL ASK HIM IF HE WANTS TO COME ALONG
I COULD GO FOR A WOMAN, BUT BATHING COMES FIRST!

HE HASN'T MOVED, HAS HE ..!?
. STRANGE. NOT EVEN A SLAVE TO ANSWER THE DOOR?
BON
BON
BON
OPEN UP!
LUCIUS, IT'S MARCUS!!
HUH?
HIS DOOR IS UN-LOCKED!?
HUH!?
BARIN
...LU-CIUS...
.....
WHOA!
WHAT IS THIS.....?

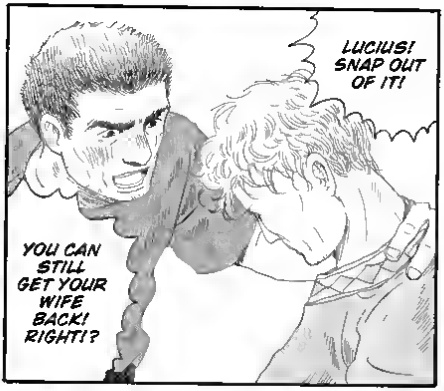
URGH... IT REEKS OF WINE...!
.....WHAT HAPPENED IN HERE...!?
...NNGH..... ...LIVIA...?
LUCIUS!!
KNOCKING

LOOK AT YOU, LUCIUS!
WHAT HAP-PENED!?
.....
...ARE YOU STILL SO BROKEN UP OVER YOUR WIFE!?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
WHAT IN THE WORLD PUT YOU INTO THIS STATE!?
NO WORTH-WHILE ROMAN MAN WOULD LOSE HIS WIFE.
I AM AN UTTER FAILURE!
.. MAR-CUS...
I AM A LOST CAUSE.

.....MY WIFE WAS RIGHT.
I DESERVE TO BE LEFT FOR ANOTHER MAN.....

I SHOULD NOT HAVE LEFT HER WAITING FOR THREE YEARS.. BUT EVEN I KNOW THAT IT WAS NOT THE REAL REASON!
...LU-CIUS..

.....IF I WERE A WOMAN, I WOULD REFUSE A MAN...
...WHO COULD NOT GIVE ME CHIL-DREN..


LUCIUS! SNAP OUT OF IT!
YOU CAN STILL GET YOUR WIFE BACK! RIGHT!?

LOOK AT THAT ALTAR, AND YOU'LL UNDER-STAND...
THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE, MARCUS...

AND WHO'S TO SAY IT ISN'T YOUR WIFE WHO IS BARREN!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...!? YOU WERE AWAY FROM HOME!

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE PHALLUSES...?
IT SEEMS MY WIFE COLLECTED THEM AND PLACED THEM AT THAT ALTAR WHILE I WAS GONE.
.....SHE CONTINUED TO BESEECH ME FOR MY SEED.
NO MATTER HOW BUSY OR TIRED I WAS...
SHE SAID THAT SHE WOULD LOSE FACE WITH HER FAMILY IF SHE COULD NOT PRODUCE CHILDREN ..
FOR SEVEN YEARS, MY WIFE PRESSED ME FOR A CHILD EVERY DAY...
IT BEGAN TO SEEM AS THOUGH I WAS NOTHING BUT A STUD HORSE FOR HER...
...AND EVENTUALLY JUST THE SIGHT OF HER FACE MADE ME WILT...
.....
SHE WOULD COOK ANYTHING TO INCREASE VIRILITY: GOAT TESTICLES, SNAIL HEADS...

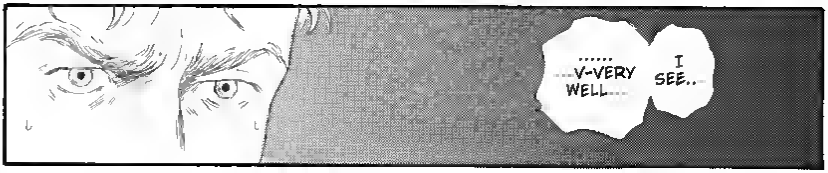
.....
AND I KNOW YOUR WIFE WAS A STRONG-WILLED WOMAN TO BEGIN WITH
WELL, I SUPPOSE I CAN SEE HOW "CHILDREN THIS, CHILDREN THAT" WOULD PUT YOU OUT OF THE MOOD...
...
BUT I LOVE MY WIFE!
I NEVER WENT TO A WHORE, NOT EVEN IN JERU-SALEM!!
COME ON! DON'T GET DESPONDENT.
DON'T BOTHER, MARCUS! JUST LEAVE ME ALONE...
THAT'S IT! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

ON YOUR FEET, LUCIUS! LET'S GO!!
...WHAT IS THIS? A GOOD LUCK CHARM?
HERE! TAKE THIS!
IT'S BOUND TO BE BETTER THAN NOTHING!
WAIT!! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME!?
COME WITH ME AND FIND OUT!

WHAT IS THIS EERIE PLACE, MARCUS...!?
JUST FOLLOW ME!
SO...
WHO CAN'T GET IT UP?
AH... I SEE.....
YOU CERTAINLY LOOK DOUR AND MISERABLE ENOUGH!
...
ME!

YOU WANT TO PATCH THINGS UP WITH YOUR WIFE, DON'T YOU?
...B-BUT...
JUST DO AS SHE SAYS, LUCIUS...
WHAT!?
REMOVE YOUR CLOTHES AND GET IN THIS CAULDRON.
FIRST.

*OENOTHEA PRIESTESS OF PRIAPUS



YOU MUST SUBMERGE YOUR ENTIRE BODY, HEAD INCLUDED!
THIS IS SPRING WATER FROM VESUVIUS, MIXED WITH GINGER OIL, PIG'S MILK AND COW'S SEED.
とぼぼぼぼ
HURRY!!
BEFORE IT WEARS OFF!!
WHAT!?
MY ENTIRE BODY!?
ぐぐーっ
AND DON'T COME BACK UP UNTIL I SAY SO!!
ガッ
CRASH!

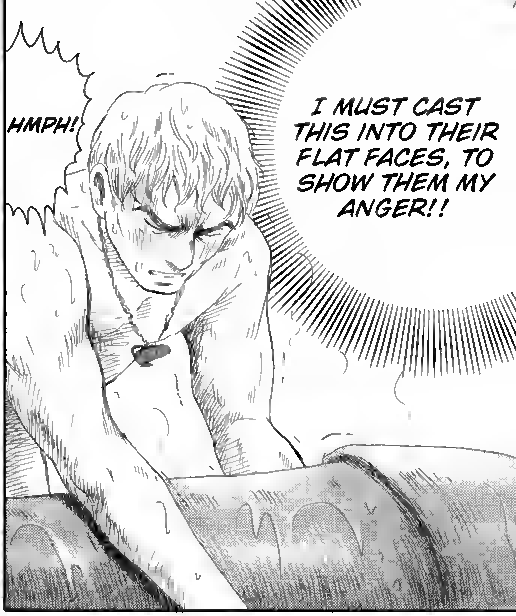
HEAVE-HO!
HEAVE-HO!
KONSEI WORSHIP: A FORM OF WORSHIP CENTERED AROUND KONSEI-SAMA, A PHALLIC SYMBOL, AND THE HOT SPRINGS THAT ISSUE FORTH FROM THE MOUNTAINS, WHICH ARE CONSIDERED A VAGINAL SYMBOL.
AAAH! GIVE US YOUR BLESSINGS!!
AAAH! I CAN FEEL KONSEI-SAMA'S PRESENCE!!
IT IS SEEN OFTEN IN EASTERN JAPAN, PARTICULARLY THE TOHOKU REGION.
DOBON (BOOM SOUND)
HERE WE GO! PLUNGE IT INTO THE POOL OF CHILDBIRTH!!
PLEASE MAKE THIS YEAR'S RICE HARVEST A BUMPER CROP!
KONSEI-SAMA, PLEASE BLESS ME WITH A CHILD THIS YEAR TO PLACATE MY MOTHER-IN-LAW...
HOT SPRING KONSEI FESTIVAL
温泉
精ま
HOT SPRING COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
温泉商店街
PACHI (SNAP)
パチ
PACHI
パチ

ポコ
KAAAH!
ブク
KAAAH!
NWAH!?

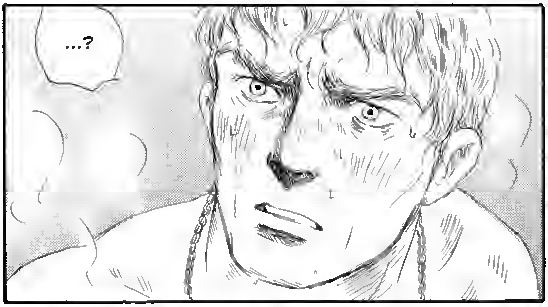
!
K-K.
K...
WHERE AM I...?
KONSEI-SAMAAA!!

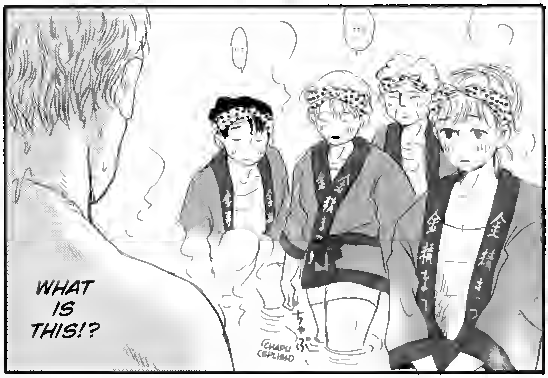
KONSEI-SAMA HAS MANIFESTED !!
KONSEI DAIMYOJIN!!
KONSEI DAIMYOJIN IS AMONG US!!
IT IS A MIRACLE!
THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
OHHH! SUCH BLESSINGS!
HAORI: KONSEI FESTIVAL
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THESE FLAT-FACES!?
WH-WHAT IS GOING ON...?
KON-SEI-SAMA!
OHHH!
フカ～～
FUKAAA (FLOAT)

PUKAM
プカー
A GIANT PHALLUS!?
!?
PUKAM
プカー
ARE THEY TAUNTING ME!?
...DO THEY KNOW OF MY TROUBLES WITH MY WIFE!?
OF COURSE WE ARE!! YOU WANT TO CALL DOWN GOD'S WRATH!?
AND AFTER ALL THE RESPECT I'VE COME TO FEEL FOR THESE FLAT-FACES...
COME ON, LADIES!! KEEP GOING, JUST LIKE WE PRACTICED!!
HOW COULD ANYONE BE SO CRUEL!?
...OKAY...
...THIS IS HOW THEY CHOOSE TO TREAT THEIR ROMAN BETTERS!?
WHAAAT? WE'RE STILL DOING THIS!?



NAORI: KONSEI FESTIVAL





MM.
ALL READY, CHIE-CHAN?
OKAY, ALL SET!
MICCHAN, HOLD THAT END!
DON'T BE SILLY! YOU WANT A BABY, DON'T YOU!?
.....I'M KIND OF.. EMBARRASSED...
AND MY LEGS ARE SLIPPING..
JUST HOLD ON TIGHT!!
IT'S ROCKING BACK AND FORTH...
LEAN YOUR WEIGHT FORWARD

...ARE THESE WOMEN TRYING TO DO!?
.....
WHAT IN THE WORLD...
COME ON, CHIE-CHAN!!
THERE IS A STRANGE EROTICISM ABOUT HER...
..
SO... UM...
I... I WANT A BABY THIS YEAR...
PLEASE.. PUT MY HUSBAND MORE INTO THE MOOD...
K...KONSEI DAIMYOJIN-SAMA...
?
MAORI: KONSEI FESTIVAL
...BUT SHE HAS A SOFT BODY THAT BEGS TO BE TOUCHED...
SHE LACKS THE VOLUME OF A GOOD ROMAN WOMAN
.....
DEEP, TROUBLED EYES.....
SHINY, LUXURIOUS SKIN...

COULD THIS BE...
SHE HID HER-SELF?
.....
AH!
MAY I GET DOWN NOW...?
UM, I'M DONE WITH MY WISH.
...A FORM OF MODESTY FOREIGN TO ROMAN WOMEN...!?
メラッ
AAH!
CAVE! WATCH OUT!

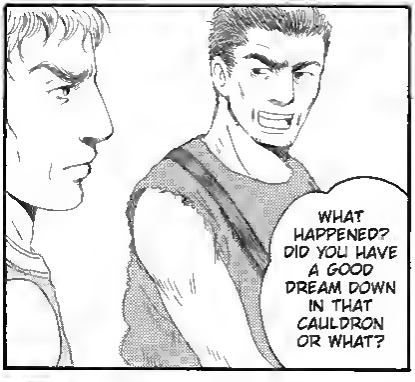
AH.....
ギュッ
(GYUUU)
ドン
DON
ドコ
DOKO
ボワ
BOWA
.. HERE HE COMES..
WHAT IS IT, OBABA!?

...IS GROWING !!
KONSEI-SAMA'S GO-SHINTAI...
NOW'S THE TIME IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE HIS GIFTS!!
COME, EVERY-ONE!
REALLY !?
HUH? I CAN'T SEE THROUGH THE STEAM...
C-CAN THIS BE...!?
KAHH
DAI-MYOJIN-SAMA!!
KON-SEI-SAMA!
KAHH KAHH
?

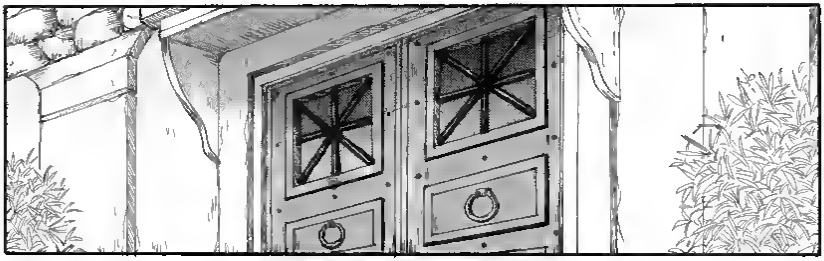
SHH!!
LU—
BUKU (BUBBLE)
ブクッ
BUKU
ブク
BUKU
ブク
BUKU
ブク

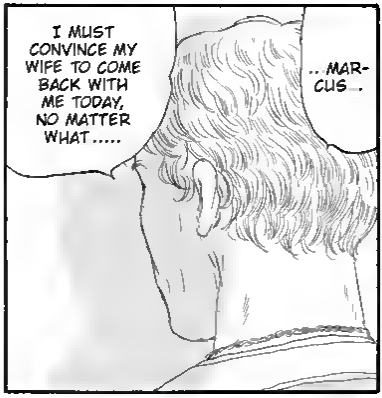
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, LUCIUS!!?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
MAR-CUS...
ZAPA (SPLASH)
ザパッ
BWAA!
OHH !!
HUFF
LOOK! LOOK AT ME!!
IT WORKED !!
YOU DID IT, OLD WOM-AN!
INCRED-IBLE!!
OF COURSE IT WORKED.

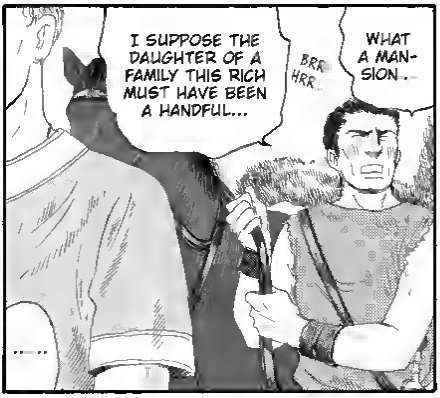
...I AM NOT SURE IF IT WAS A GOOD DREAM...OR A NIGHTMARE...

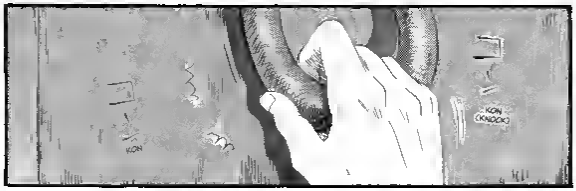

WHAT HAPPENED? DID YOU HAVE A GOOD DREAM DOWN IN THAT CAULDRON OR WHAT?

WE'RE HERE, MARCUS!!
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN' IT'S THE ONE WHERE A HUGE GANG OF BEAUTIFUL WOMEN ATTACKS...
HEE HEE



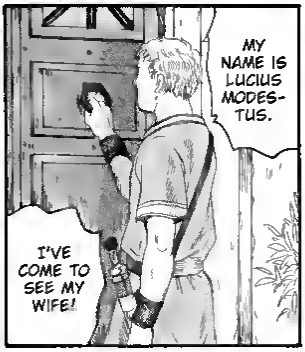

I MUST CONVINCE MY WIFE TO COME BACK WITH ME TODAY, NO MATTER WHAT.....
.. MARCUS...

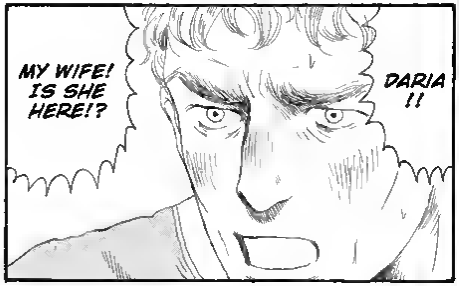

WHAT A MANSION...
BRR HRR
I SUPPOSE THE DAUGHTER OF A FAMILY THIS RICH MUST HAVE BEEN A HANDFUL...
.....


KON (KNOCK)
KON

I APPRECIATE YOUR COMPANY, BUT CAN I COUNT ON YOU TO HOLD YOUR TONGUE HERE?
UH... YEAH
SURE...

GAGH (CREAK)


MY NAME IS LUCIUS MODESTUS.
I'VE COME TO SEE MY WIFE!


MY WIFE! IS SHE HERE!?
DARIA !!

YES... SHE IS... HERE.....

...LUCIUS !?

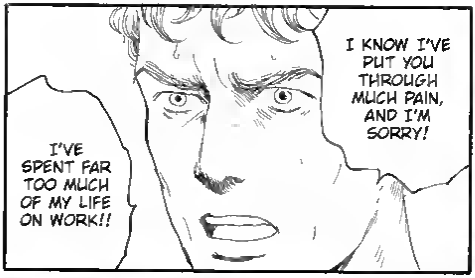
...

TELL HER I CAN GIVE HER ALL THE CHILDREN SHE WANTS NOW!!
LET ME SEE HER! TELL HER I'VE COME FOR HER!
...
PLEASE!

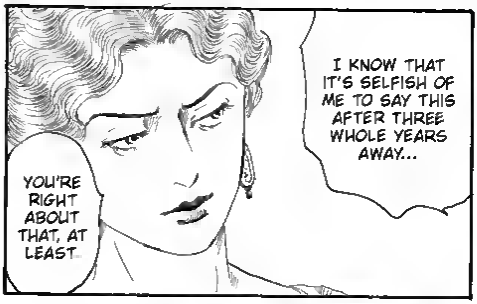
.....
.....
BAITAN (THUMP)

JUST... JUST A MOMENT...

IT'S ALL RIGHT, LUCIUS! THIS WILL WORK OUT!
WE'LL BE BACK ON THE ROAD TO ROME WITH YOUR WIFE IN TOW BY THIS AFTERNOON!!
YOU'VE GOT THE CHARM WITH YOU!
LIVIA !!
...LUCIUS !?

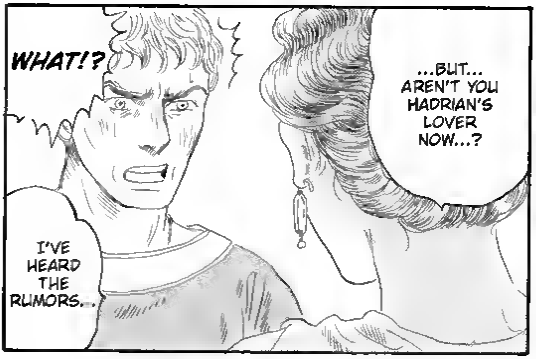

I KNOW I'VE PUT YOU THROUGH MUCH PAIN, AND I'M SORRY!
I'VE SPENT FAR TOO MUCH OF MY LIFE ON WORK!!

WH-WHAT IS IT? WHAT DO YOU WANT ?
LIVIA, HOW I'VE LONGED TO SEE YOU!!
COME BACK TO ROME WITH ME, LIVIA!!


I KNOW THAT IT'S SELFISH OF ME TO SAY THIS AFTER THREE WHOLE YEARS AWAY...
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT, AT LEAST

Y-YES!! TRUST ME, HE'S READY TO GO!!
MARCUS CAN VOUCH FOR MY VIRILITY!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT!?

...BUT I BELIEVE THAT I CAN SATISFY YOU IN EVERY WAY NOW!!
BAM (SMACK)
I CAN GIVE YOU ALL THE CHILDREN YOU WANT!


WHAT!?
...BUT... AREN'T YOU HADRIAN'S LOVER NOW...?
I'VE HEARD THE RUMORS...

DON'T TOUCH ME LIKE THAT!
LOOK, THAT DOESN'T MATTER NOW!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, LIVIA!?
YOU CAN'T BELIEVE THAT NON-SENSE!
...!.....
...WAIT! I'LL COME TO THE DOOR!
LIVI—
(CREEK)
ｷｨｯ!
...

"THE FIRST AUGUSTUS ENACTED AN ADULTERY LAW FORBIDDING A WOMAN FROM SLEEPING WITH ANY MAN OTHER THAN HER HUSBAND. HOWEVER, AS PROSTITUTES WERE NOT SUBJECT TO THIS LAW, ANY WOMAN IN DANGER OF BREAKING IT COULD LEGALLY CHANGE HER PROFESSION, THUS SUBVERTING THE LAW. BEWARE THE FEARLESS ROMAN WOMAN!
SO YOU SEE, I CAN'T REMARRY YOU....
FAREWELL, LUCIUS, MY BELOVED WORKER ANT...
I REMARRIED LAST YEAR.
I'M EXPECTING NEXT MONTH!*
YOU HAVE IT ALL WRONG!!
NO, LIVIA! I'M NOT A HOMOSEXUAL!
BATAN (THUMP)
バタ!
ENJOY YOUR LIFE WITH THE EMPEROR!

The chapter you have just read, which kicked off the second volume of the Japanese edition of *Thermae Romae*, was the very first that was published in *Comic Beam* when *Thermae Romae* became a regularly-serialized manga, as opposed to the infrequent schedule I worked on before then. I received many comments from readers who had finished Volume 1 and were dismayed and confused at why I would choose a topic that would throw off so many new readers.

But this was actually one of the themes I'd decided that I must draw when I first conceived *Thermae Romae*, and I'd been working on the idea ever since. After all, before Japan became accustomed to Western ideas in everyday life, we naturally accepted the worship of the phallus as a rite of fertility.

The practice of phallus worship still lives on around the country today. As I'm sure many readers know, many areas rich in hot springs conduct rituals in which the phallus is treated as a repository for a god. This may be because the bubbling hot spring gushing forth from the earth has been considered a feminine symbol since ancient times. I'm sure that Lucius, a citizen of pre-Christian Roman times, would not view such practices as "disgusting" or "immoral." I think that Lucius would have appreciated the sanctity of that symbol, as it was an icon of fertility and good luck in his world.

Several varieties of tintinnabulum (Naples, Italy)

Relief on a wall in Pompeii. (Pompeii, Italy)

Japan is a polytheistic nation, like Rome was, but Western ideals have taken hold since the end of World War II, particularly when it comes to Christian hesitation and guilt over sexuality. Since then, phallic worship has lost its original connection to wealth and fertility, replaced with a reputation of comical eccentricity, and our traditional rituals are increasingly seen as exotic pastimes.

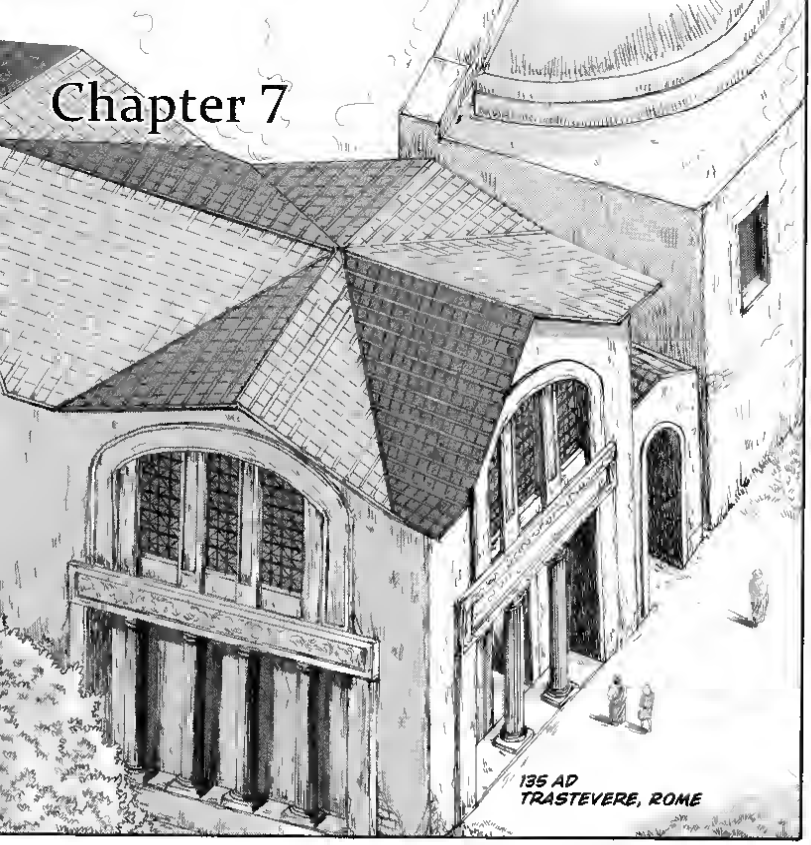
By the way, the tintinnabulum, the phallic trinket shown in this chapter, was a totally ordinary and accepted part of Roman life. From statues and paintings of the god of fertility, Priapus, to charms and necklaces, a virtual mountain of "things" was excavated from the ruins of Pompeii, which shows us just how treasured the phallus was in Roman society. When the Roman empire was eventually taken over by Christianity, the thermae and their public nudity vanished, as well as the phallic craftsmanship, but even today you can go to Naples and buy charms in the shape of red peppers. These red peppers (referred to as "horns") are an evolution of the Roman phallus. Though times have changed, some ideas have not disappeared from Roman consciousness after two millennia.

My Italian husband posited that the reason *Thermae Romae* has found so much support is because of the depiction of that "fertility symbol" right on the front cover of the first volume. He was delighted that it was probably "the most visible fertility symbol in Japan," and makes sure that whenever he shows the book off, the twig and berries are front and center. I think he may be right.

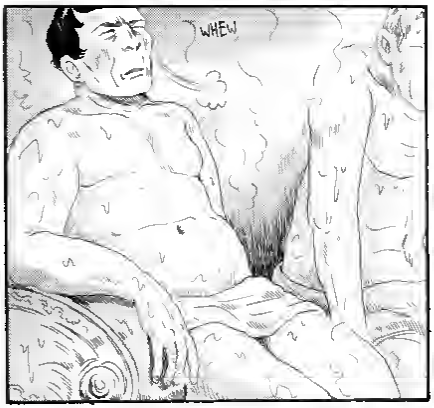
A modern Neopolitan charm (Naples, Italy)

Priapus

Chapter 7

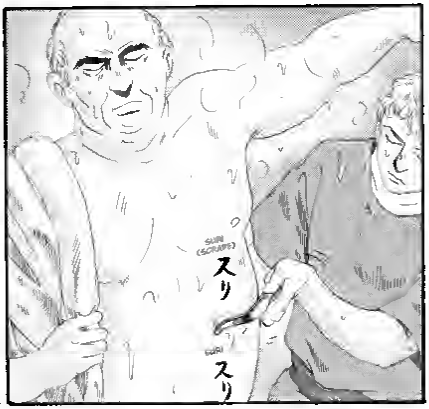


*AS A BRONZE ROMAN COIN, ESTIMATES OF ITS VALUE VARY DEPENDING ON THE TIME AND CRITERIA, BUT IT WAS ROUGHLY WORTH A LITTLE LESS THAN ONE U. S. DOLLAR.


WHEW

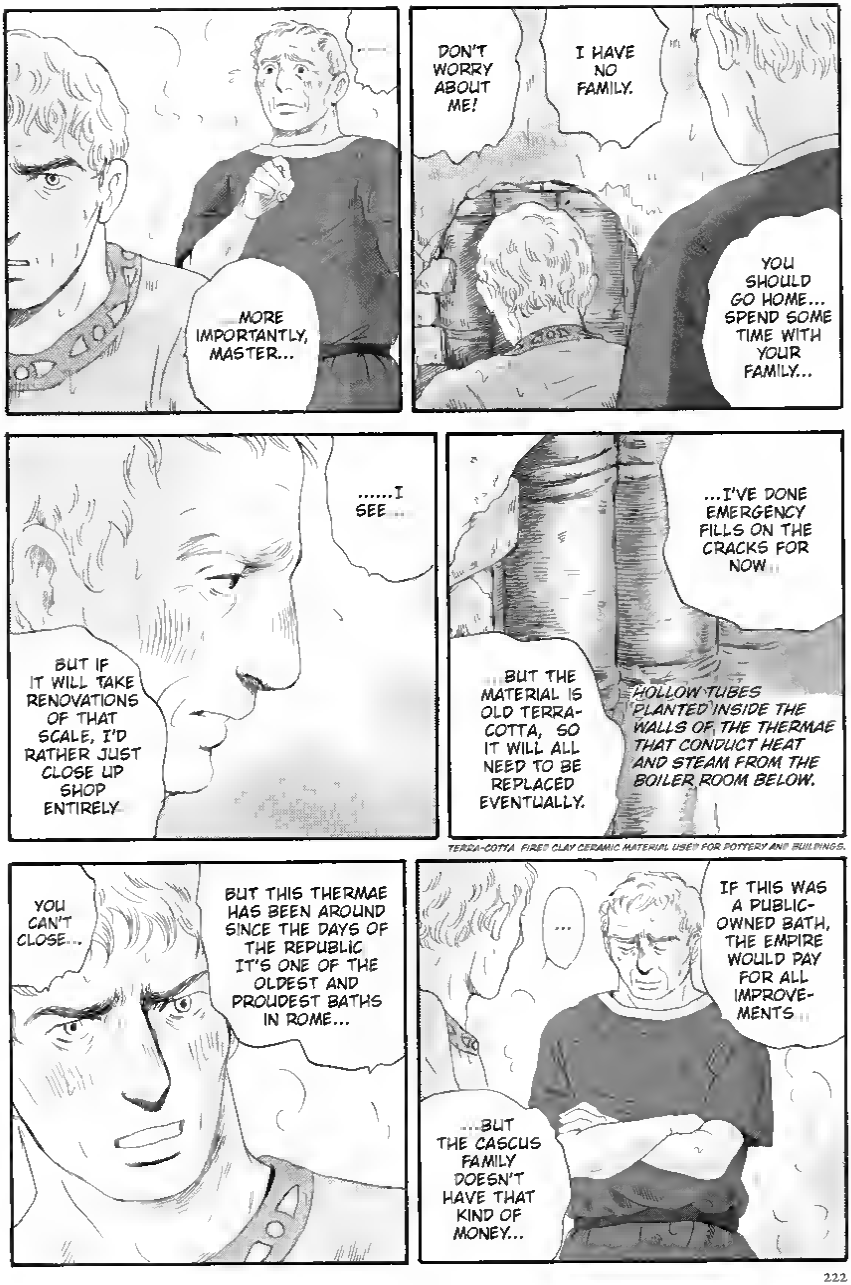
じょぼぼぼ
SOMBOBOBO (BLUB BLUB)

OSHIRO (SIGH)
ため息


GORI (SCRAPE)
ゴリ
GORI
ゴリ

ENGINEER MODESTUS!
PEEL
PEEL
PEEL (CONT.)

YOU'VE BEEN WORKING SINCE DAWN!
THAT WILL BE ENOUGH FOR TODAY
WHAT IS IT?
I CAN'T LET HIS REPU-TATION DOWN!
MY FATHER TOOK GREAT CARE IN MAINTAINING THIS THERMAE.
BUT IT'S NOT SAFE TO WORK SO LONG IN SUCH HEAT...
I CAN'T LEAVE UNTIL I'VE SEALED ALL THE CRACKS IN THIS HEAT VENT.
PETA
..ER, RIGHT. BUT...
YOU WERE WORKING UNTIL THE BATH CLOSED YESTERDAY TOO...
I'VE DEDICATED MY LIFE TO THE BATH! A LITTLE STEAM IS NOTHING TO ME!
I AM A BATHING ENGINEER!


MORE IMPORTANTLY, MASTER...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
I HAVE NO FAMILY.
YOU SHOULD GO HOME... SPEND SOME TIME WITH YOUR FAMILY...
.....I SEE..
BUT IF IT WILL TAKE RENOVATIONS OF THAT SCALE, I'D RATHER JUST CLOSE UP SHOP ENTIRELY.
...I'VE DONE EMERGENCY FILLS ON THE CRACKS FOR NOW...
...BUT THE MATERIAL IS OLD TERRA-COTTA, SO IT WILL ALL NEED TO BE REPLACED EVENTUALLY.
HOLLOW TUBES PLANTED INSIDE THE WALLS OF THE THERMAE THAT CONDUCT HEAT AND STEAM FROM THE BOILER ROOM BELOW.
YOU CAN'T CLOSE...
BUT THIS THERMAE HAS BEEN AROUND SINCE THE DAYS OF THE REPUBLIC IT'S ONE OF THE OLDEST AND PROUDEST BATHS IN ROME...
...
IF THIS WAS A PUBLIC-OWNED BATH, THE EMPIRE WOULD PAY FOR ALL IMPROVE-MENTS...
...BUT THE CASCUS FAMILY DOESN'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY...

TERRA-COTTA FIRED CLAY CERAMIC MATERIAL USED FOR POTTERY AND BUILDINGS.

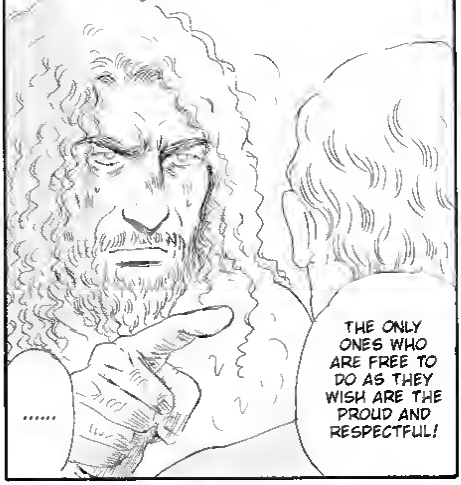
YES, BUT ONLY THAT MANY...
IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO OUTWEIGH THE WATER AND SLAVE LABOR COSTS...
YOU CAN SEE THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE WHO COME FOR WHAT THIS THERMAE OFFERS ..
SEE?
.....
THE BIGGEST HIT TO OUR CLIENTELE...
...IS THE MEN WHO STARTED COMING HERE.
PROB-LEM!?
.. AND NOW THERE'S ONE MORE PROBLEM THAT COULD BE OUR FINISHING BLOW...
BWA HA HA HA!
GE HEH HEH!
WHO ARE THEY..?
BISHA (SPLASH)
BISHA
GYA HA HA HA!
HYA HA HA HA!
ドヤ
ドヤ
BOYA
BOYA
BOYA (HAMMER)

...
ドヤ
(SMIRK)
ドヤ
BWA HA HA HA!
HAH!
バシャッ
(SPLASH)
WA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
.....WHA...!?
THEY ARE FORMER AUXILIARIES FROM GERMANIA
HMPH!!
...AND THEY'VE BEEN MOVING INTO THIS NEIGHBORHOOD RECENTLY, FOR SOME REASON. .
(GRABBED)
AFTER THEIR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE, THEY ARE GIVEN ROMAN CITIZENSHIP.

JABAA (SPLASH)
じゃば～
WA HAAA!
WHEN MEN LIKE THIS SHOW UP, PEOPLE ARE GOING TO STAY AWAY.
...IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW PROUD AND HISTORIC A BATH IS...
GA HA HA HA HA!
..WH-WHAT UNCOUTH-NESS...
THEY HOP IN THE BATH WITH THEIR CLOTHES ON...
...THEN START WASHING THE CLOTHES IN THE WATER.
THEY GET INTO THE BATH FIRST.
...THEN START SCRAPING OFF THEIR FILTH IN THE TUB...
THEY HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO USE THE BATH!!

AH!
NO, MODESTUS... DO NOT CONFRONT THEM!
.....
...AND THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THEY'LL DO IF YOU TRY TO SCOLD THEM...
ENGINEER MODESTUS, STOP!!
THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO REASON!!
...!?
HEY! YOU LOT!!

THE BATH IS NOT MEANT FOR CLEANING YOUR BODY AND CLOTHES!
IF YOU CAN'T FIGURE THAT OUT, THEN LEAVE NOW!!
YOU'RE WASHING YOUR CLOTHES AND SCRAPING YOUR DIRTY SKIN IN THE BATH!
HAVE YOU NO CONSIDERATION FOR ANYONE ELSE!?
JABA GEUSHO
じゃば
……
ROMAN CITIZEN FREE IN ROME!!
WE ROMAN CITIZEN!
…


.....
THE ONLY ONES WHO ARE FREE TO DO AS THEY WISH ARE THE PROUD AND RESPECTFUL!

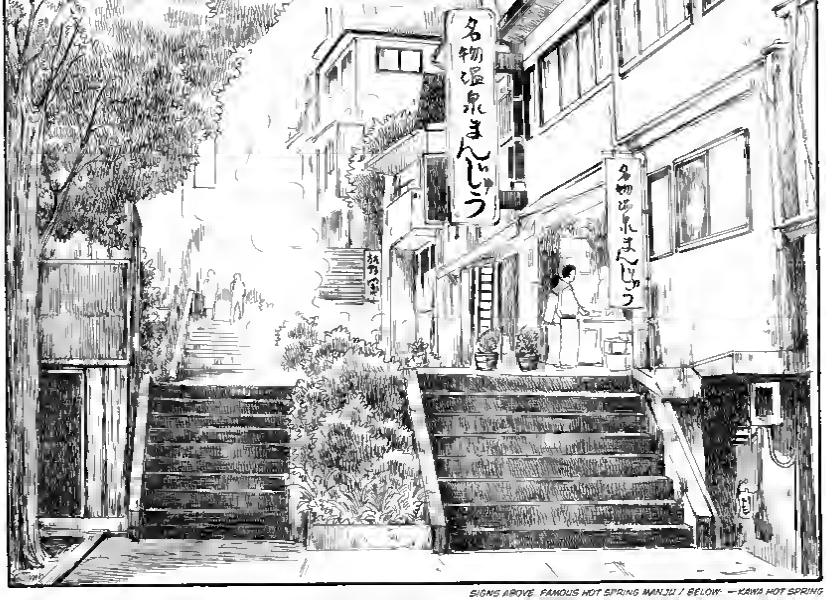
THAT'S ENOUGH, MODESTUS
(NO (FLUSTER))

YOU CANNOT CALL YOURSELVES ROMAN CITIZENS IF YOU DO NOT EVEN KNOW HOW TO TAKE A ROMAN BATH.

...BAS-TARD...

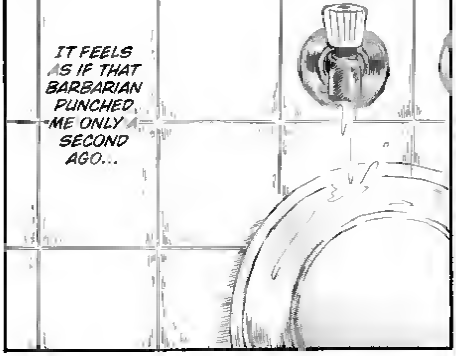
(NU (GRUNT))

(GRUNGH)
IF ONE GOOD PUNCH WILL SETTLE THIS, THEN HIT ME AND BE ON YOUR WAY!!
I WARNED HIM...
AAAH!!
(SLASHH) (SPLASH)
URK
ENGINEER MODESTUS!!



SIGNS ABOVE: FAMOUS HOT SPRING MANJU / BELOW: —KAWA HOT SPRING

D...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
ZAAA (FSHH)
ペリ
HUFF
DAMNATION!! IS THAT ENOUGH FOR YOU!?
THEN LEAVE THIS BATH AT ONCE!! STOP DESTROYING THIS PLACE OF RELAXA—


IT FEELS AS IF THAT BARBARIAN PUNCHED ME ONLY A SECOND AGO...

WH- WHAT IS THIS!?

...I'VE BEEN INSTANTLY SENT BACK TO THIS WORLD...
...BUT SOME- HOW...

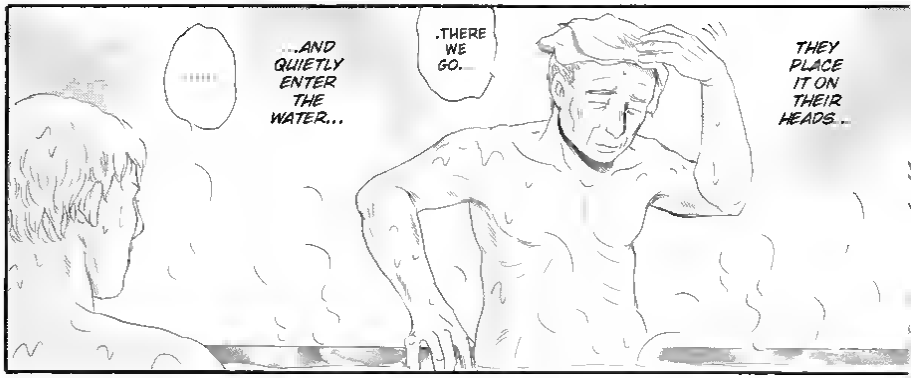
IF ANYONE SEES ME, THEY'LL THINK I'M AN UNCULTURED BARBARIAN MYSELF!
I NEED TO TAKE OFF THESE SOAKING GARMENTS IMMEDI- ATELY...

GASP
WHAT HAVE I DONE!? I'M IN THE BATH WITH MY CLOTHES ON!!

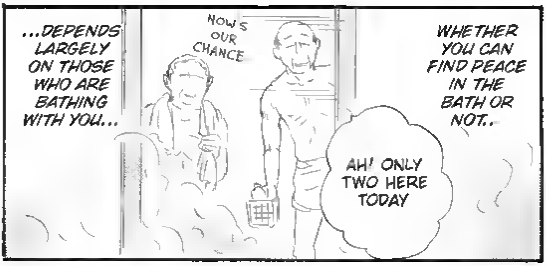
GARA (CLUNK)
ガラ

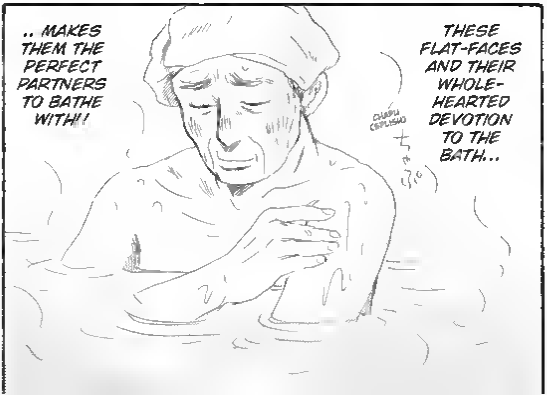
SIGN: WATCH YOUR STEP
MOZO (RUSTLE)
モゾ
MOZO
モゾ

PEKO (FOW)
KU (NOD)
JAA (FUBA)
KASU (CLATTER)
TSUN (THUD)
HMM..
MEETING THESE FLAT-FACES PUTS MY HEART AT EASE..
GYU (SQUEEZE)
THEY SQUEEZE OUT THE TOWELS THEY USE TO CLEAN THEIR BODIES..
ZABAA (SPLASH)
ザバー
THEY SPLASH SEVERAL BUCKETS OF WATER ON THEM-SELVES..
GOSHI (RUB)
GOSHI
GOSHI
THEY WASH THEM-SELVES BEFORE THEY HEAD TO THE BATH...
THESE PEOPLE MAY BE EVEN CLEANLIER THAN US ROMANS ..


.....
...AND QUIETLY ENTER THE WATER...
.THERE WE GO..
THEY PLACE IT ON THEIR HEADS..

HOHH...
THEN SURRENDER THEIR BODIES AND HEARTS TO THE HEAT..

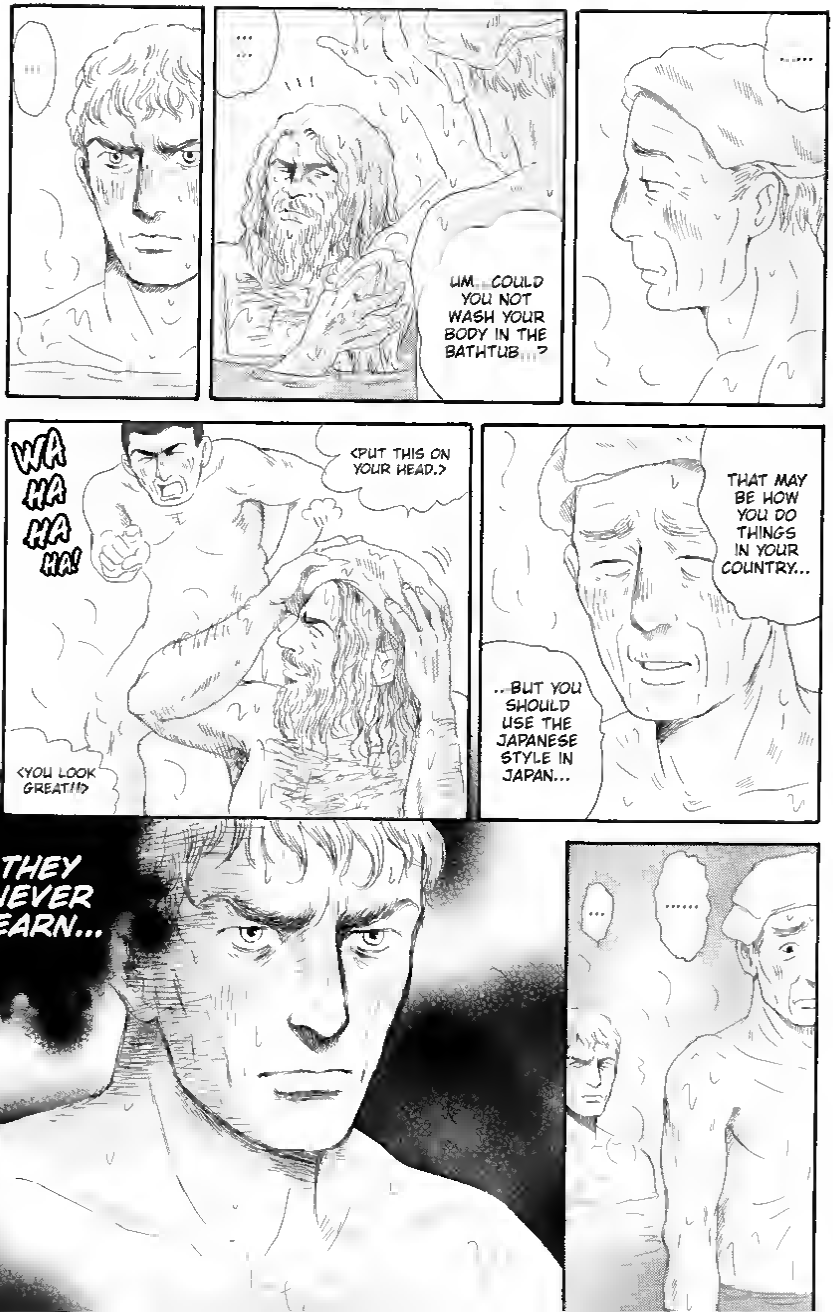

...DEPENDS LARGELY ON THOSE WHO ARE BATHING WITH YOU...
NOW'S OUR CHANCE
AH! ONLY TWO HERE TODAY
WHETHER YOU CAN FIND PEACE IN THE BATH OR NOT..


.. MAKES THEM THE PERFECT PARTNERS TO BATHE WITH!
CHAPPU CHAPPUSHO
THESE FLAT-FACES AND THEIR WHOLE-HEARTED DEVOTION TO THE BATH...

IT'S PERFECT!!

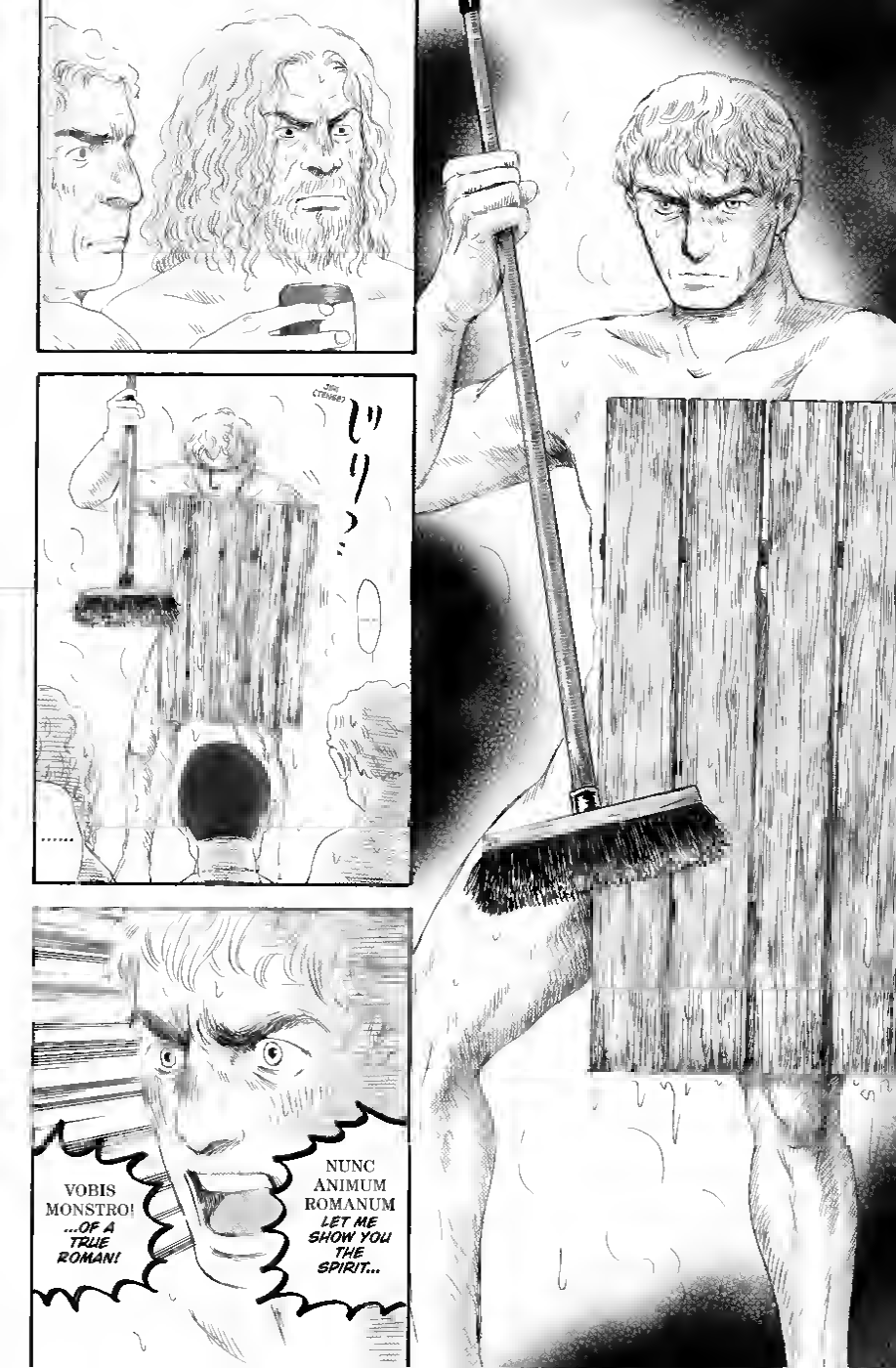
...ROME COULD EXPAND HER BORDERS FOREVER AND MAINTAIN INTERNAL PEACE..
THIS BATH JUST SEEPS INTO YA...
IF THE PROVINCIAL PEOPLES OF THE EMPIRE WERE ALL LIKE THESE FLAT-FACES...
<BWA HA HA!>
ガラ
SARA COLUMBO
THEY WILL NO DOUBT UNDERSTAND THE ROMANS AS FELLOW PARTISANS OF THE BATH...
WHAT!?
THE GERMAN-ICS!!
HYA HA HA!
WA HA HA HA HA!
BOYA
BOYA CHAMERO
ドヤ
ドヤ
ドヤ

BASSHAAN (SPLASH)
...!!
<YAHOOO!!>
BA (LEAP)
PUHA (GASP)
PASHI (SMACK)
<THANKS.>
<SOAP?>
<NEED ANY?>
BOTTLED HORSE OIL
GOSSHI (CRUNCH)
!!
GOSSHI


...
...
...
UM...COULD YOU NOT WASH YOUR BODY IN THE BATHTUB...?
.....
WA HA HA HA!
<PUT THIS ON YOUR HEAD.>
<YOU LOOK GREAT!!>
THAT MAY BE HOW YOU DO THINGS IN YOUR COUNTRY...
..BUT YOU SHOULD USE THE JAPANESE STYLE IN JAPAN...
THEY NEVER LEARN...
...
.....

..?
UBINAM VOS ESSES PUTATIS!?
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?
CONFUSIONEM CAUSARE DESINITE!"
STOP THIS NONSENSE AT ONCE!!
ZABA (SPLASH)
ザバ
<I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...>
DO (SHOVE)
ドン
VOS GERITE URBANE!
WHY CAN'T YOU BEHAVE PROPERLY!?

<GOT THAT!?>
<STOP BOTHERING US!!>
HA HA HA HA
バッシャーン
BASHAAN (SPLASH)
<OOH, LOOKS GOOD!?>
HA HA HA!
WELL, I'LL GO CALL SOMEONE TO HELP HANDLE THIS—
<HERE! DRINK THIS!>
THIS IS UNFORGIV-ABLE!!
THINGS'RE STARTING TO LOOK KINDA HAIRY.
AT LEAST THIS OTHER FOREIGNER-SAN IS COURTEOUS..
YEAH

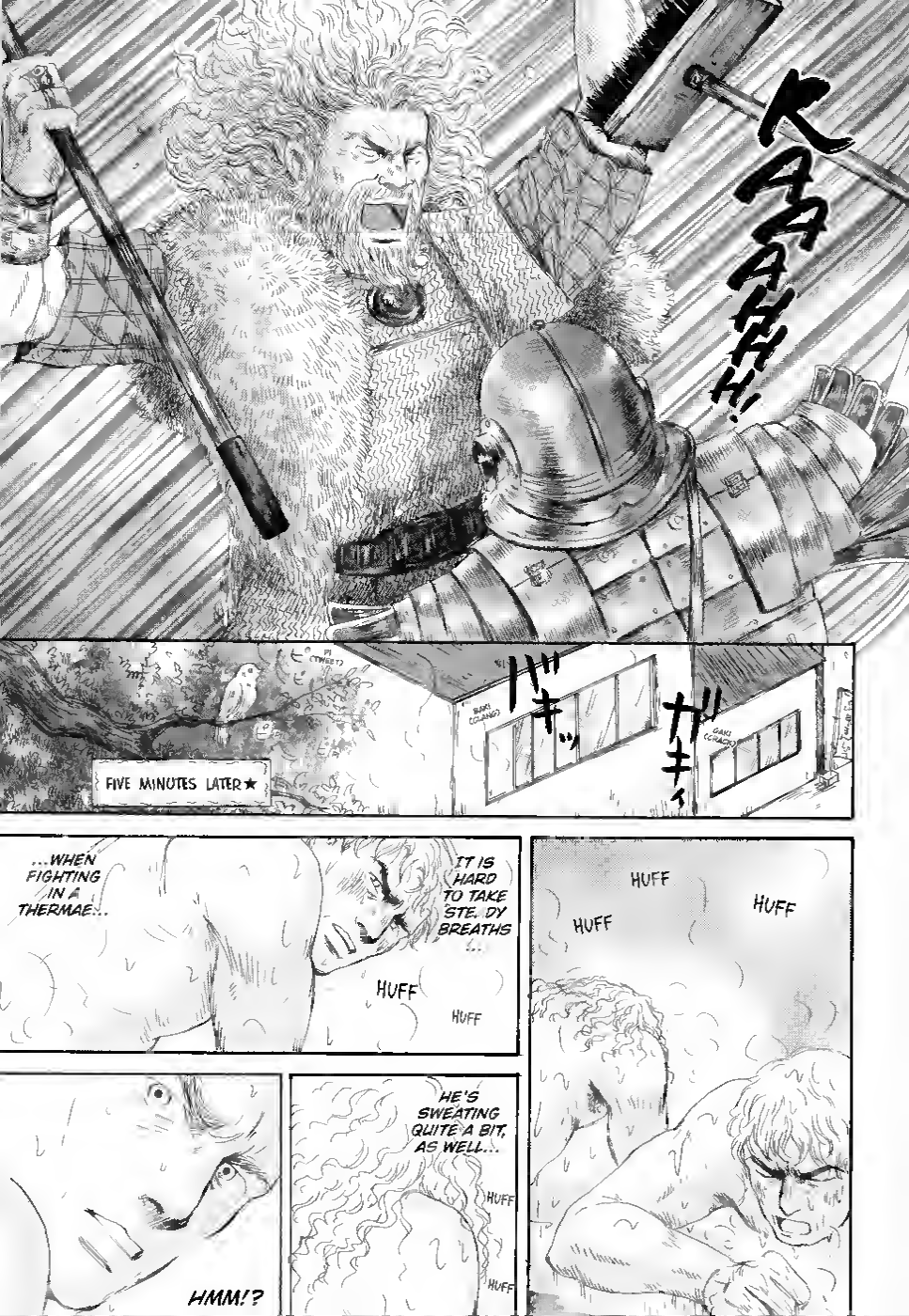

(SIGH)
(STRUGGLE)
りり
.....
VOBIS MONSTRO!
...OF A TRUE ROMAN!
NUNC ANIMUM ROMANUM
LET ME SHOW YOU THE SPIRIT...

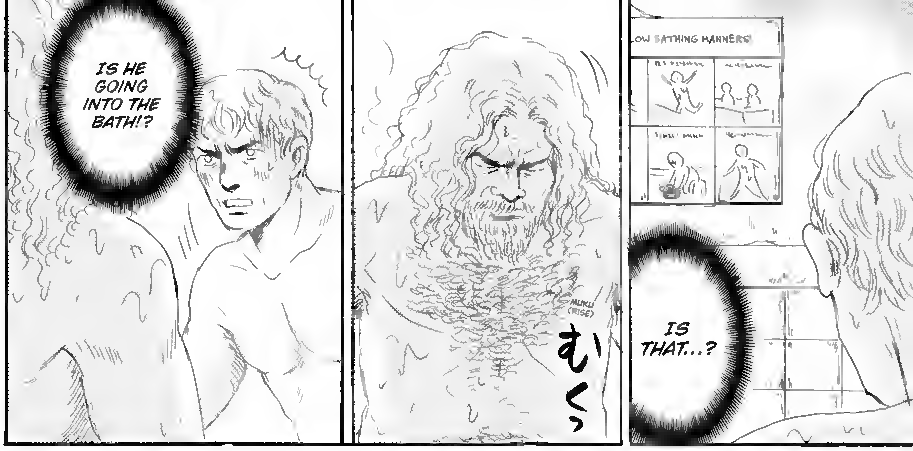
.....
!?
RRGH
SIGN: KEEP IT CLEAN!
いつもきれいに
.....
AHA.. THERE'S ANOTHER ONE!
NO, WAIT!! IF ONLY I HAVE WEAPONS, IT VIOLATES THE SPIRIT OF A FAIR FIGHT!

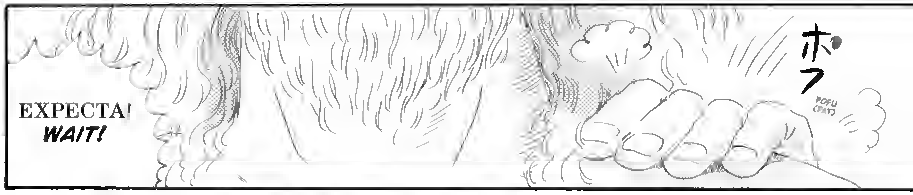
ACCIPE!
TAKE THIS!
GASP!
WH-WHAT KIND OF FIGHTING STANCE IS THAT!?

BUSHU (BROOM)
<EAT THIS!!>
!!
<COME ON!>
FWA HA HA!
... ...
HE MUST HAVE BEEN IN A SPECIAL MILITARY UNIT!
... ...
.....THIS BARBARIAN IS NO ORDINARY MAN...
HEH HEH
<THIS FELLOW'S GOOD IF HE CAN GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH VLADI.. >
<DID YOU KNOW VLADIMIR WAS ONCE THE VLADIVOSTOK REPRESENTATIVE AT THE RUSSIAN FENCING CHAMPIONSHIP?>
EEK!

HA HA!
HMPH... NOW HE'S JUST TOYING WITH ME...
HUFF
HUFF
...!!
I'LL TEACH YOU TO LOOK DOWN ON THE ROMAN ARMY!
GO GOUNCHO
.....
.....


KAAAH!
FIVE MINUTES LATER★
...WHEN FIGHTING IN A THERMAE...
IT IS HARD TO TAKE STE. DY BREATHS...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HE'S SWEATING QUITE A BIT, AS WELL...
HUFF
HUFF
HMM!?


IS HE GOING INTO THE BATH!?
むくっ
MUKU! (RISE!)
OW BATHING MANNERS!
IS THAT...?


EXPECTA!
WAIT!
ホフ
HOFU (SIGH)

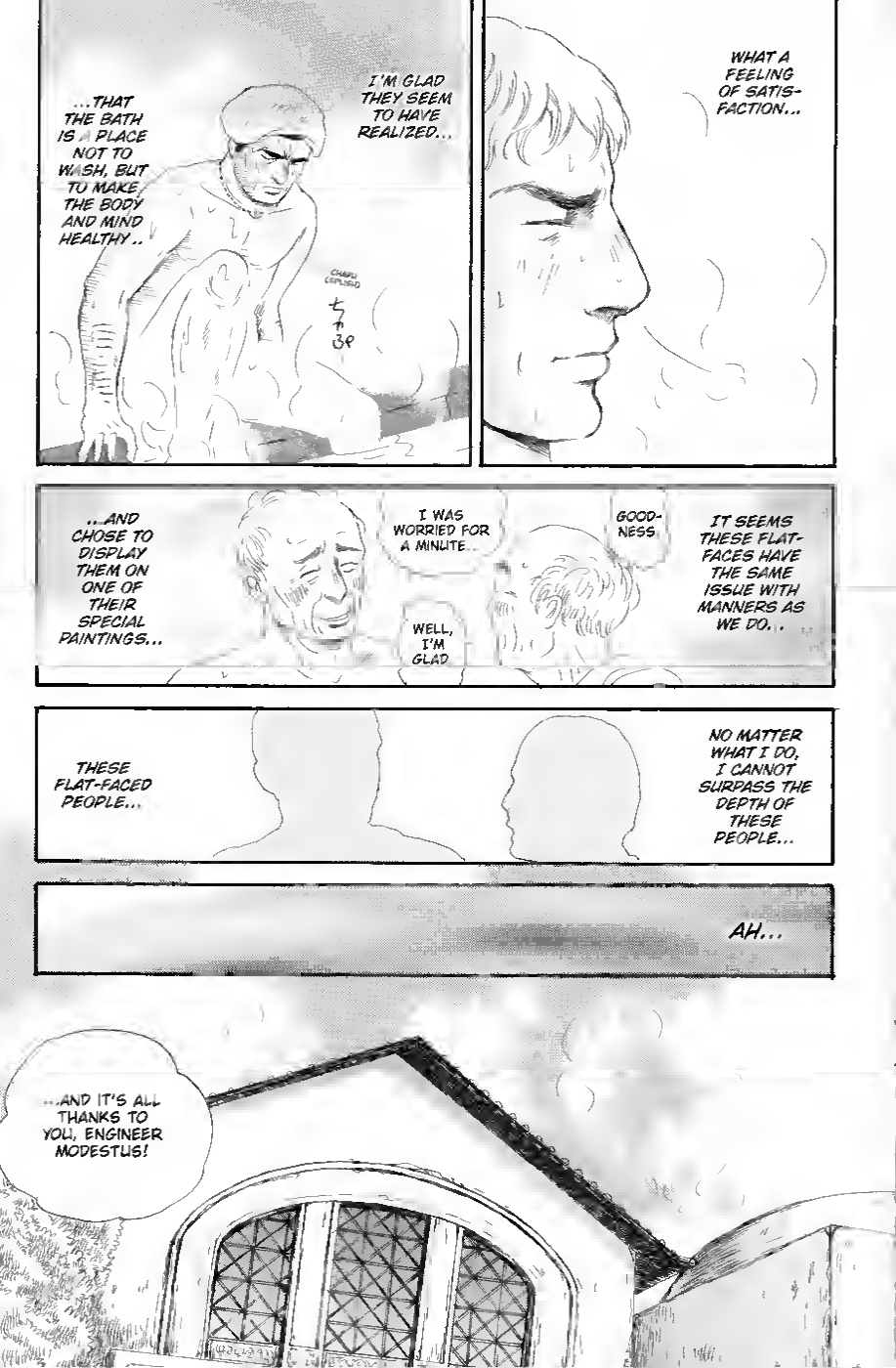
ビニッ
BIN! (TWIT)

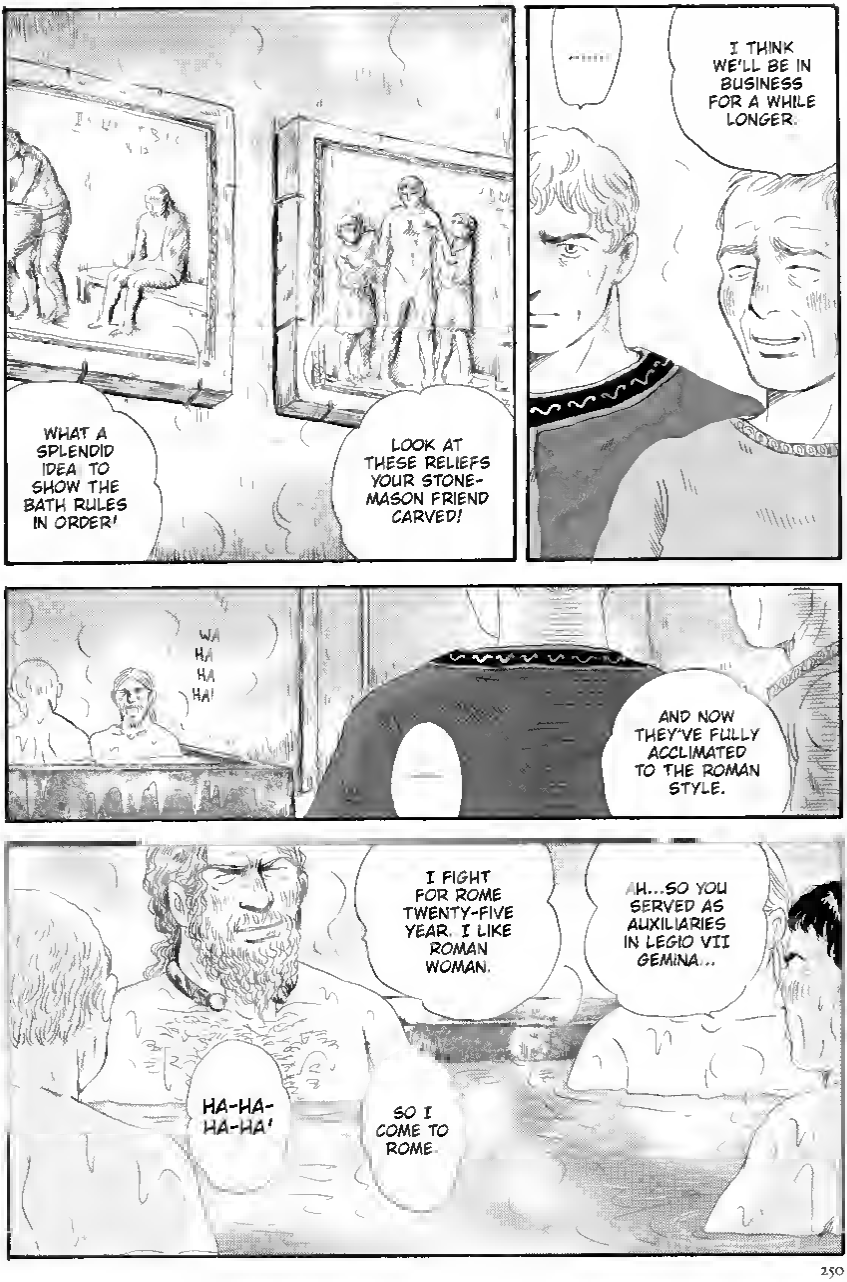
FOLLOW BATHING MANNERS!
DON'T WEAR UNDERWEAR IN
NO!
WASH BEFORE YOU BATHE
NO!
DON'T BRING YOUR TOWEL INTO THE WATER
NO!
DON'T LEAVE YOUR SHOWER ON
NO!
DON'T WASH YOUR CLOTHES
NO!
DRY OFF BEFORE YOU LEAVE
NO!

LENTE!
HOLD ON!

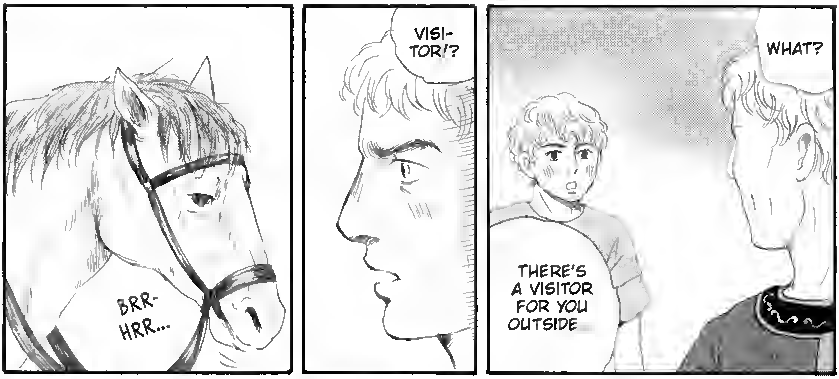
THING MANNERS!
<...IS THAT WHAT HE'S SO MAD ABOUT.....?>
HAS IMAGINES INTUERE!
LOOK AT THIS PICTURE!
!?
OH DEAR, WE CAN'T HAVE A BIG FISTFIGHT IN THE BATH HALL...
殿
CURTAIN GENTLEMEN
RECTE TE LAVARE TENTA' CONARE!
FIRST YOU WASH OFF YOUR SWEAT! HERE!
ECCE!
BEHOLD!
.....
OH DEAR, OH DEAR...
HURRY, BEFORE IT GETS OUTTA HAND!
COME QUICK!

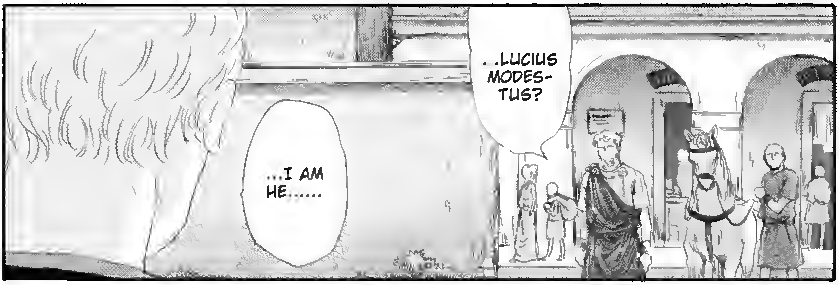
(TWEET)
GOSHI
GOSHI
GOSHI (RUB)
HUH ...?
WELL... THEY SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG NOW
THEY'VE GOT THEIR TOWELS ON THEIR HEADS.
THEY SEEM DOWNRIGHT POLITE, IF YOU ASK ME...


...THAT THE BATH IS A PLACE NOT TO WASH, BUT TO MAKE THE BODY AND MIND HEALTHY..
I'M GLAD THEY SEEM TO HAVE REALIZED...
WHAT A FEELING OF SATIS-FACTION...
...AND CHOSE TO DISPLAY THEM ON ONE OF THEIR SPECIAL PAINTINGS...
I WAS WORRIED FOR A MINUTE...
GOOD-NESS
WELL, I'M GLAD
IT SEEMS THESE FLAT-FACES HAVE THE SAME ISSUE WITH MANNERS AS WE DO..
THESE FLAT-FACED PEOPLE...
NO MATTER WHAT I DO, I CANNOT SURPASS THE DEPTH OF THESE PEOPLE...
AH...
...AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, ENGINEER MODESTUS!


WHAT A SPLENDID IDEA TO SHOW THE BATH RULES IN ORDER!
LOOK AT THESE RELIEFS YOUR STONE-MASON FRIEND CARVED!
I THINK WE'LL BE IN BUSINESS FOR A WHILE LONGER.
WA HA HA HA!
AND NOW THEY'VE FULLY ACCLIMATED TO THE ROMAN STYLE.
HA-HA-HA-HA!
SO I COME TO ROME.
I FIGHT FOR ROME TWENTY-FIVE YEAR. I LIKE ROMAN WOMAN.
AH...SO YOU SERVED AS AUXILIARIES IN LEGIO VII GEMINA...

AND I HAVE LEARNED FROM THE FLAT-FACES YET AGAIN.
.....
I HAVE LEARNED FROM YOU THAT GIVING UP EARLY IS NEVER A WISE CHOICE. .
...AND IT IS A GREAT BOON THAT THESE MEN HAVE COME TO THAT UNDER-STANDING...
HA HA HA.
IN ORDER TO ENJOY BATHING, ONE MUST UNDERSTAND AND OBEY PROPER MANNERS...
GO AHEAD AND AFFIX IT...
ENGI-NEER MODES-TUS!
THAT MAKES FOUR IN FULL.
..REALIZE JUST HOW MUCH PEACE BATHING BRINGS TO THE HEART..
HOW HEARTEN-ING IT IS!
OHH! THANK YOU, MARCUS!
I'VE GOT THE RELIEF FOR THE CHANGING ROOM!
HEY, LUCIUS!
TO KNOW THAT THE FLAT-FACES, NOT JUST WE ROMANS...


BRR-
HRR...
VISI-
TOR!?
WHAT?
THERE'S A VISITOR FOR YOU OUTSIDE


...I AM HE.....
..LUCIUS MODES-
TUS?

MY FATHER HAS TAKEN ILL. I WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME TO TIBUR AT ONCE!!
WHAT!? EMPEROR HADRIAN HAS FALLEN ILL!?
I AM LUCIUS CEIONIUS COMMODUS... AND I AM SOON TO BE HEIR TO THE IMPERIAL THRONE
PARDON MY IN-
TRUSION!

Many years ago, I escorted a group of eleven Italian women on a two-week trip all over Japan. Despite the coordination and leadership of my husband and I, this blazing mid-summer vacation was quite the ordeal.

First, these ladies were seasoned travelers who were not content in the least to acquiesce to your run-of-the-mill tour package, following a tour guide and passively observing the various sights. Coordinating their travels was no easy feat.

A tour group of women of an average age no one would consider "young" is not going to get to the top of Mount Fuji. And the monkey hot springs were probably put into their heads by one of those postcard photos meant to evoke "Japan," but you don't get to bathe with them. We gently broke the news to these strong-minded ladies that we couldn't do those things, but they wanted to at least visit a traditional hot spring inn, so we ended up visiting two places.

Just two years before this trip, there had been an incident in Hokkaido where foreign sailors had brought food into a public bath and caused a scene, which led to a common policy of "no foreign sailors allowed" in that area. Therefore, I wanted to make sure to avoid any trouble by pounding the manners and style of Japanese bathing into our guests. Specifically, I emphasized that Japanese public baths were not meant for "washing," but for "relaxing."

But as you might expect with a group of people who were used to undressing briefly in a swimming pool changing room but never exposing

A picture of Japanese public baths distributed in foreign countries.

their bodies before strangers for minutes at a time, some chose to bathe in their rooms instead, and some of them braved the public baths but thought the water was too hot and just stuck to the shower. The others managed to get a taste of the Japanese *furo* according to the manners I taught them, but some began to swim around in the largest bath. When I hurriedly instructed them this wasn't okay, one of the ladies told me, "Taking a bath must be like zen for the Japanese."

I wasn't saying anyone needed to be in a state of meditation to bathe, but perhaps Westerners are just programmed to want to splash and frolic when they visit a wide-open space with lots of water. They just can't seem to be able to relax in a hot bath and let their exhaustion melt away.

That was how they were, but somehow our Italian ladies seemed to have taken a liking to this "zen" bathing, and so at our next inn, they were insistent on bathing again. Despite my careful instructions, I felt I ought to be present to supervise their manners, so I set a meeting time for us to bathe together.

However, no matter how long I waited, they did not show up, and I ended up bathing by myself. I was certain they must have been tired from the trip and sleeping in their rooms, but as I left in my *yukata*, what should I hear from behind the curtain with "gentlemen" written on it but bracing and happy chattering in Italian...

It seems our ladies were enjoying their baths as gentlemen this time.

This was the single worst breach of manners on our trip...that I'm aware of.

Bathing manners

A pamphlet for foreigners showing the Japanese way to bathe, illustrated by Maruo Suehiro-sensei

HH!
RAHH
RAHH
RAHH!
RAHH
RAHH!
RAHH!
RAAHH!

KAHH!
MAKE THEM BE QUIET.....
KAHH!
KAHH
...HERALD...
HUH!?

Chapter 8

KAHH!
THE NOISE IS UNBEARABLE...!!
MAKE THE PEOPLE BE QUIET *NOW*!!
KAH

ENOUGH, HERALD!
I'LL HANDLE THIS!
...BUT IMPERATOR... THE PEOPLE WILL NOT—
STEP DOWN!

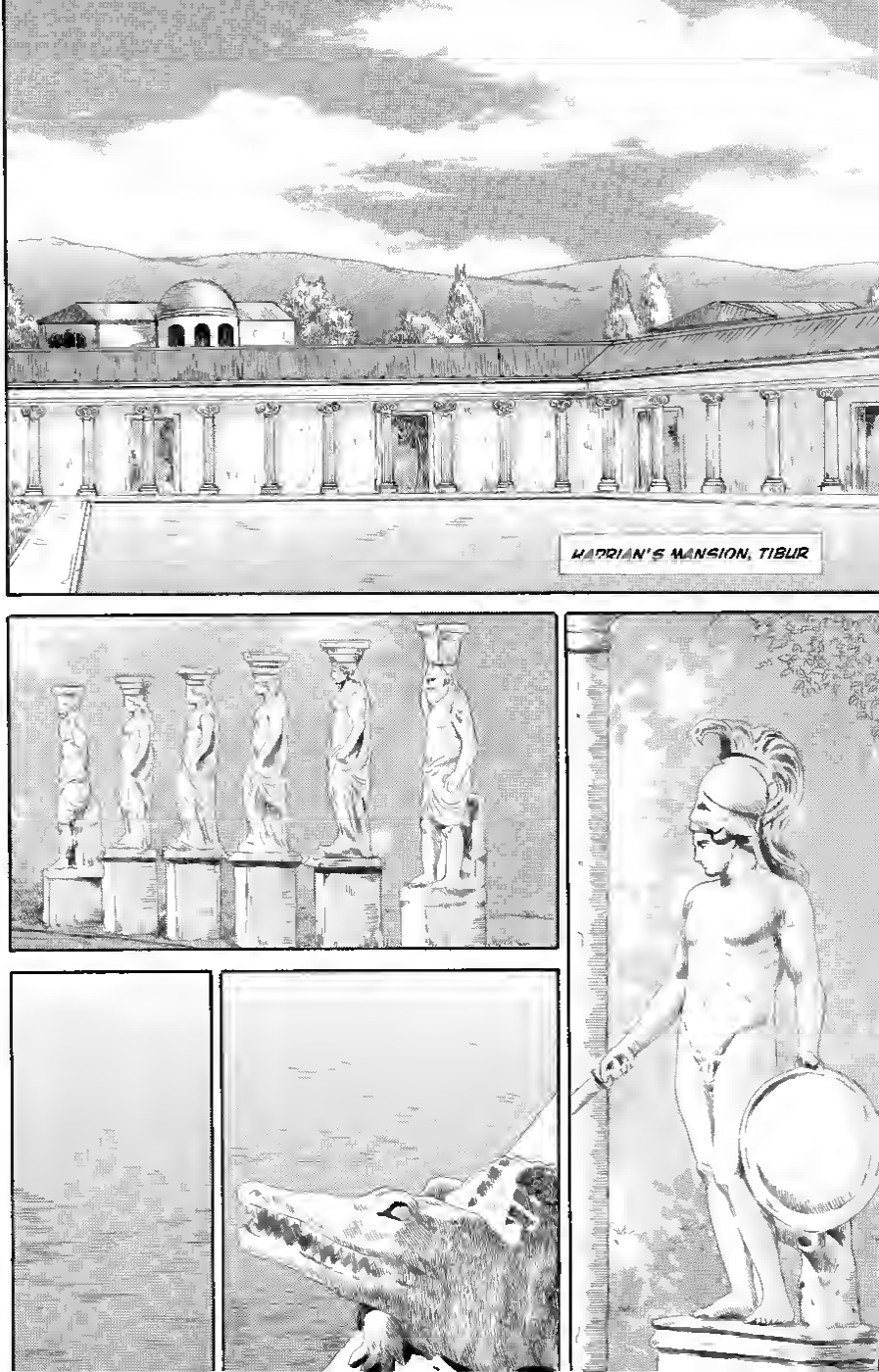
YES!!
R-RIGHT THIS INSTANT...!?

AH (SWOON)
RAHH!
RAHH!
SU (STAN)
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...
...

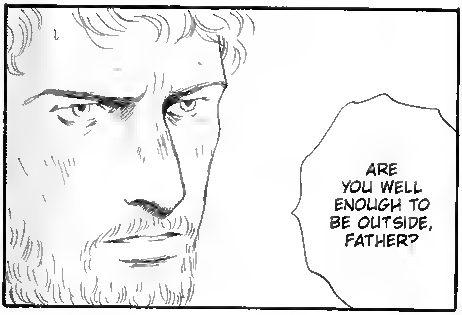
HUH?
THIS?
THE EMPER-OR...
...DESIRES THIS!!
WHAT'S "THIS"?
THIS?
THIS?
...WHAT IS IT...?
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
.....
ど、、、
WHAT IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE!?
WA HA HA HA HA HA!!
...CEIO-NIUS

*ROMAN EMPERORS HAD GREAT POWER, BUT THEY STILL NEEDED THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE. THEREFORE, EMPERORS MAINTAINED A POLICY OF "BREAD AND CIRCUSES," OFFERING FREE WHEAT TO THE CITIZENS OF THE EMPIRE AND PUTTING ON GLADIATOR BATTLES IN ORDER TO WIN THE FAVOR OF THE PUBLIC. AFTER ALL, LOSING PUBLIC SUPPORT WAS NOT JUST A POLITICAL PROBLEM—IT COULD COST THE EMPEROR HIS LIFE.

...IT SEEMS I MOMENTARILY LOST MY SENSES...
I VERY NEARLY COULD HAVE MADE AN ENEMY OUT OF EVERY MAN AND WOMAN IN THIS COLISEUM...
HIGH-NESS.
.....
...YOU HAVE MY THANKS...
I SHOULD HAVE STAYED HOME AND PLAYED IT SAFE UNTIL THAT MOMENT...
AND THIS IS AN IMPORTANT TIME, AS I PREPARE TO OFFICIALLY ADOPT YOU AS MY FAMILY...
YOUR HIGH-NESS..
I HAVE SPENT TOO MUCH TIME THINKING ONLY OF MANAGING THE REALM AND NOT OF THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE.
IT SEEMS I HAVE LOST MY TOUCH HA-HA-HA.
KURA CHIKONO
—.?
YOUR HIGH-NESS!?


HADRIAN'S MANSION, TIBUR

.....
I HAVE LONG FOR-GOTTEN THESE THINGS...
THE CROCODILES WE SAW TOGETHER, THE TASTE OF THAT SWEET EGYPTIAN FRUIT YOU LOVED SO MUCH...
RIGHT THIS WAY!
OH, ANTI-NOUS...
THE GUARDIANS OF THE NILE!!
LOOK, EMPEROR HADRIAN! CROCODILES!
LOOK!
FATHER!
WILL I SEE YOU ONCE AGAIN IN THE WORLD AFTER DEATH, ANTINOUS.....?
IMPERATOR, CEIONIUS H.S RETURNED...


ARE YOU WELL ENOUGH TO BE OUTSIDE, FATHER?

AHH— FINALLY YOU RETURN, CEIONIUS!
AND ENGINEER LUCIUS!
FORGIVE ME FOR TAKING SO LONG...

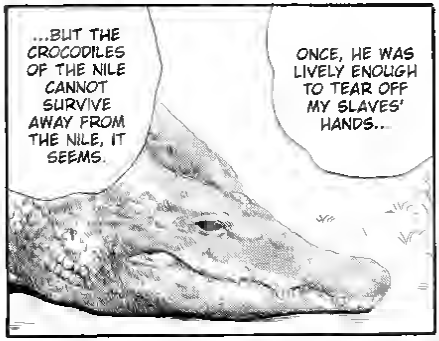
YES.
I MUST STEP OUT AND TAKE IN THE FRESH AIR AT TIMES...

I AM NOT WORTHY OF SUCH SPLEN-DOR
.. BUT I'M ASHAMED TO ADMIT I CANNOT...
IF I COULD, I WOULD HAVE A FEAST PREPARED FOR YOU..

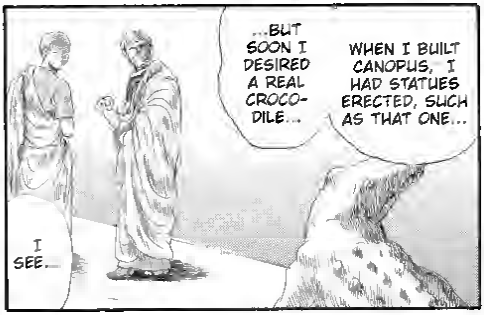
AND IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, ENGINEER! ARE YOU WELL?
YES, HIGH-NESS!

IT SEEMS THAT MY MIND NOW REJECTS THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING AMONG THE PUBLIC..

...THEY ARE ULTIMATELY NOTHING BUT FALSEHOODS. THIS POND IS A POOR REPLACE-MENT FOR THE NILE...
.....NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRY TO RE-CREATE THE PLACES I HAVE LOVED HERE...
I WISH THAT I COULD LEAVE THIS PLACE AND TRAVEL.
...
FEASTING ON THESE FRUITS, WITH THEIR INDESCRIBABLE SCENTS AND FLAVORS, MAKES ONE DRUNK ON THE GREATNESS OF THE NILE. IF ONLY I COULD SEE IT ONE MORE TIME BEFORE I DIE .
THE FERTILE BANKS, COVERED IN GREENERY AND DELICIOUS FRUIT...
THE ANCIENT, LANGUID NILE... AND ITS HOLY PROTECTOR, THE CROCODILE, WHO OCCASIONALLY MAKES HIS PRESENCE KNOWN ..
.....
KUSA (RUSTLE)
HIGH-NESS...


...BUT THE CROCODILES OF THE NILE CANNOT SURVIVE AWAY FROM THE NILE, IT SEEMS.
ONCE, HE WAS LIVELY ENOUGH TO TEAR OFF MY SLAVES' HANDS..

*CANOPUS: THE ARTIFICIAL POND AT HADRIAN'S MANSION



.. AND TO ME, HE IS THE REINCARNATION OF ANTINOUS, WHO DROWNED IN THE NILE AND BECAME A GOD..
TO EGYPT, HE IS THE SYMBOL OF THE NILE, THE GOD OF THE HARVEST...

DIDN'T YOU BRING LUCIUS HERE FOR A REASON ...?
FATHER, STOP THIS SILLINESS...
PERHAPS THE END OF THIS CROCODILE'S LIFE WILL BE MINE, AS WELL... THE THOUGHT HAS OCCURRED TO ME.

AFTER HE HAS BEEN MADE MY ADOPTED SON NEXT MONTH, HE WILL BE PRONOUNCED THE HEIR TO THE IMPERIAL THRONE...
ENGINEER, THIS IS CEIONIUS COMMODUS...
OH, YES.. WHY AM I TALKING ABOUT CROCODILES..?
FORGIVE ME
..AND I WANT HIS FIRST MAJOR STEP TO BE THE CREATION OF A LARGE-SCALE THERMAE FOR THE PUBLIC.
CEIONIUS WILL LIKELY BE EMPEROR VERY SOON
I WANT YOU TO CREATE A THERMAE THAT WILL LAST FOR GENERATIONS AND WIN THE PUBLIC'S TRUST
YES! SOMETHING FAR GREATER THAN ANYTHING BUILT IN THE PAST, LIKE THE BATHS OF TRAJAN.
YOU WANT ME!?
I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD AGREE TO DESIGN IT ENTIRELY BY YOURSELF...
...
BUILD A THERMAE THAT WILL ENCHANT THE ENTIRETY OF ROME!
.....
THIS WILL HELP CONVINCE THE SENATE THAT CEIONIUS IS THE RIGHT SUCCESSOR FOR THE EMPIRE.

RIGHT AWAY!!
IT'S NOT QUITE THE SAME THESE DAYS...
AND ONE MORE THING...CAN YOU TAKE A LOOK AT MY THERMAE HERE?
...HOW CAN THIS BE...?
I NEED YOUR HELP, ENGINEER LUCIUS!
I...I UNDER-STAND!
.....
.....
I WILL SHOW YOU TO THE BATHING ROOM, LUCIUS.
WATCH YOUR STEP...
HE IS SO WEAK NOW...
I WANT TO DO ALL THAT I CAN FOR HIM...
...BUT IT'S AS THOUGH HIS WILL TO LIVE ON IS DIMIN-ISHED...
I CANNOT SAY!
IS HE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT, CEIONIUS ...?
WHAT FATHER NEEDS NOW IS REST...

A REST FROM PUBLIC DUTY WOULD BE GOOD, I AGREE...
THE FATIGUE OF HIS TRIP TO JERUSALEM MUST BE WEIGHING ON HIM...
CAN YOU WAIT HERE FOR A BIT?
ENGI-NEER?
...BUT IF HE IS SPENDING HIS TIME THINKING OF PAINFUL MEMORIES...
HADRIAN CHOSE HIM PERSONALLY, SO HE MUST BE WORTHY OF RULING...
CEIONIUS UPHELD THE EMPEROR'S REPUTATION IN THE COLOSSEUM...
I HAVE SOMETHING TO ATTEND TO! I SHOULD BE BACK QUICKLY, BUT IF I'M NOT, JUST GO ON WITHOUT ME!
ROME'S PROSPERITY COMES FROM HADRIAN'S MANY SIMPLE EFFORTS...
...IS FOR HADRIAN TO REMAIN EMPEROR LONGER...
...BUT MY OWN HOPE...
AH, CERTAINLY...

I SHOULD CHECK ON HIM...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO CEIONIUS..?
IT'S TAKING TOO LONG
HADRIAN PERSONALLY VISITED ALL CORNERS OF THE EMPIRE. RARE IS THE RULER WITH THAT SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND POLITICAL SAVVY..
S-STOP...
I HOPE IT'S NOT AN EMERGENCY.
HE WAS IN A GREAT HURRY..
B-BUT..
I'VE HAD MY EYE ON YOU. NOW YOU BELONG TO ME, IN BODY AND MIND.
?
COME ON... WHAT'S THE HARM?

...OF NONSENSE IS THIS!?
WHAT MANNER ...
MM...
WHA...?
CE ON. LIO. LATER BECOMES FAMOUS FOR BEING HANDSOME AND LUSTFUL
...IS A MIND-LESS WOMAN-IZER!!
THE FUTURE EMPEROR OF THE SENSIBLE, LOGICAL ROMAN EMPIRE...
AAH...
AH!
ROME WILL BE RUINED!!
AHH...I KNEW YOUR LIPS WOULD TASTE THIS WAY...
OHH! LOOK AT THE SIZE OF YOUR BREASTS!
NO, PLEASE...

I'LL GO GET ONE!
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING LIKE A METAL SPATULA?
I THINK I KNOW WHAT IT IS—
IS THIS IT?
HMM ..
YES. BUT THE WATER FLOW IS NOT STEADY. IT STOPS FROM TIME TO TIME.
I SUPPOSE THERE MUST BE QUITE A LOT OF LIME-STONE IN THE WATER
I HEAR THIS WATER COMES FROM THE ANIO NOVUS AQUEDUCT
I THOUGHT SO
LIME-STONE BUILD-UP.
TEEK (SIGHED)
AH, YES, SINCE THE RESERVOIR IS SHARED WITH THE THERMAE NEXT DOOR
DO YOU HAVE SOME HOT WATER LEFT IN THE RESERVOIR?
PERHAPS THIS POOR WATER IS WHAT HAS THE CROCODILE IN BAD HEALTH...
THEY MUST BE NEGLECTING THIS PLACE WHEN THE EMPEROR IS GONE...
IF THE BATH WAS RECEIVING REGULAR MAINTENANCE, LIKELY THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED...
WILL THIS WORK FOR YOU?

DAMN... THIS IS JUST MAKING ME ANGRY AGAIN ..
GARI
GARI
GARI (SCRAPE)
GOKON (LIGHT)
GORI
GORI (SCRAPE)
THEN I WANT YOU TO SEND SOME HOT WATER THROUGH THIS DRAIN, AND I'LL SCRAPE OUT THE LIMESTONE BUILDUP!
YES, RIGHT AWAY!
FOR NOW...
THE SENATE WILL NOT BE HAPPY WHEN THE EMPIRE'S FUTURE RULER IS UNVEILED...
GOHO
KEHO
IS YOUR "BUSINESS" OVER?
GOHO
KEHO
I'M SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, LUCIUS...
...
...WOULD NOT HAVE CHOSEN SUCH A WEAK MAN TO BE HIS SUCCESSOR, NO MATTER HOW SMART AND SUBTLE HE MIGHT BE..
THE OLD HADRIAN THAT I KNEW..
GOHO
GOHO
KOHO
.....
...HE MIGHT HAVE LOST HIS FACULTY OF GOOD JUDGMENT.
BECAUSE HADRIAN IS SO WEAK IN BODY AND SPIRIT...
GOHO
GOHO
I WILL GO OUTSIDE UNTIL IT PASSES.
SORRY, LUCIUS...I'M HAVING A COUGHING FIT.

*CEIONIUS WAS FAMOUS FOR BEING HANDSOME AND LUSTFUL...AND SICKLY

PERHAPS...
WHAT CAN A SIMPLE BATHING ENGINEER LIKE ME DO FOR HIM...?
GOROTSU (SMUSH)
...TO HELP HADRIAN REGAIN HIS FORMER SPARK?
WHAT CAN BE DONE..
GAZU (SCRAPE)
I CANNOT TAKE HIM TO THE REAL THING, BUT IF I COULD RECREATE THE NILE...
.....
YES... WHAT IF I BUILT HIM A THERMAE THAT WAS LIKE THE RIVER NILE!?
HADRIAN'S FAVORITE SYMBOL OF THE NILE!
I KNOW... THE CROCO-DILE!
WHAT SHOULD BE DONE...?
BUT THERE'S NO POINT PUTTING A CROCODILE IN A BATH
JABARA (SPLASH)
HERE IT COMES!
BUT I MUST!
I'VE FLUSHED THE WATER, MASTER LUCIUS!
GOOD!
I'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN IT FOR MYSELF..
BUT HOW?

どば
DOBA (GUSHO)
CROCO-DILE... THAT'S THE KEY...
AHH! MASTER LUCIUS!
バシャ
BASHAA (GUSHO)
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH...
THAT WAS A SURPRISE! HA-HA-HA
HAAH
じゃば
JABA (GUSHO)
ボコ
BOKO (GUSHO)
ゴボ
GOBO (GUSHO)
!?
WELL, WELL...
...THAT WAS QUITE A POWERFUL SPRAY OF WATER...

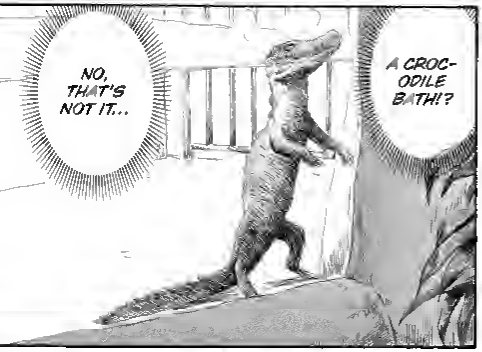
PACH
CRUNCH

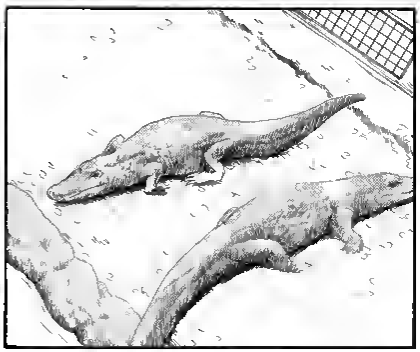
...
SOMEONE HELP!!
TH-THE EMPEROR'S CROCODILE IS IN THE BATH!!
!?
.....
A FLAT-FACED BOY!?

.....!!
WHY IS THERE A FLAT-FACE HERE...!?
I'M THE ONE WHO MOVED!!
ようこそ ワニバナランド
NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT HAPPENED!!
SIGN: WELCOME CROC BANANA LAND
HERE YOU ARE, KEITA! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!
SIGN: NILE CROCODILE
HE MUST BE A NATIVE ZOOKEEPER FOR THE CROCODILE!
ナイルワニ
CROCODYLUS NIL
分布
IT SAYS THIS WAS JUST DONATED FROM EGYPT!
THE NILE CROCODILE? OOH
MAMA... THERE'S A WEIRD MAN IN THERE

I'M TRAPPED...
HUFF...
THIS SIDE IS A GIANT PANE OF GLASS...
HUFF
HUFF
...AND BEHIND IS A CAGE!!
MAMA, IS HE REALLY A ZOOKEEPER?
HEE HEE!
I GUESS HE'S STILL NEW TO THE JOB.
AAAAH!
<HELP ME!>
<HELP ME!>
...
TOKAA CHIIMO
ばか〜

HUFF
HUFF
GASHI (CRAB)
NOW LET'S GO SEE THE NEXT TANK!
HUFF
HUFF
OF COURSE HE'S A ZOO-KEEPER! HE WOULDN'T BE IN THERE IF HE WASN'T!
...SOAKING IN WARM WATER!?
WHAT ARE THESE CROCODILES DOING...
SUTO (FLOP)
WHAT ARE THE FLAT-FACES THINKING!?
HUFF
.....





SIGN: WELCOME TO CROC BANANA LAND

...IS FLOWING INTO THE TANK WITH THE CROCO-DILES!
THE HOT SPRING...
HMM...
.. WOULD SEEM TO BE A HOT SPRING, BUT...
THIS WARM WATER POOLED HERE
...THUS ALLOWING THEM TO CULTIVATE THESE SOUTHERN PLANTS AS WELL...
BY RUNNING IT THROUGH THESE TUBES, IT KEEPS THE ROOM WARM.!
PERHAPS THAT FRUIT IS EDIBLE..
THE HOT WATER IS FLOWING THROUGH THIS PIPE AS WELL!
OH! WHAT'S THAT PIPE?
SO, THE FLAT-FACES EAT CROCO-DILE...
OH, THE STING OF CHAGRIN...
HEY, YOU! WHAT'S WRONG?
WELL DONE, FLAT-FACES!
THIS IS A BRILLIANT USE FOR HOT WATER. ONE THAT I WOULD NEVER HAVE THOUGHT OF— I CAN ONLY IMAGINE SOAKING IN IT.
HEH...

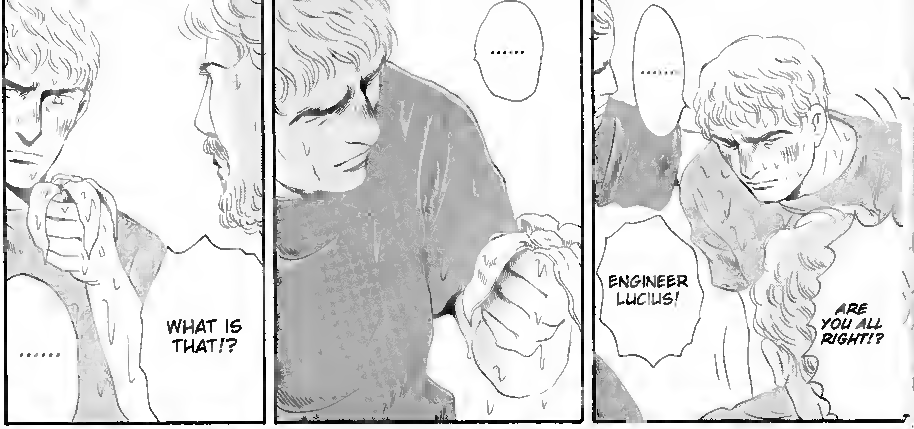
NEED ME TO CALL FOR HELP?
FEELIN' SICK?
...?
.....
THAT'S THE FRUIT THAT GROWS HERE...
...
IT'S A RARE TYPE OF BANANA, ONLY FOUND FAR SOUTH OF HERE! VERY DELICIOUS!!
.....
HERE, TAKE IT! I'VE GOT MORE!
OH, I SEE! YOU'RE HUNGRY!
PLEASE!
WHAT A SWEET SCENT!
...YOU SHOULD TRY TASTING THE INSIDE!!
HA-HA-HA IF YOU THINK THE SKIN SMELLS GOOD...
FUN (SNIFF)
FUN
FUN
FUN

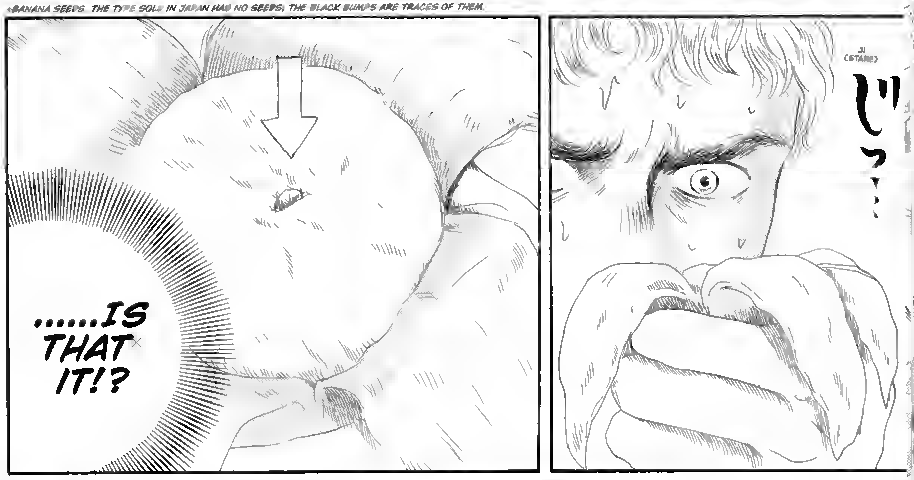
AND THE SWEET SMELL OF IT GOT STRONGER THE INSTANT I REMOVED THE TOUGH SKIN...
IT SEEMS TO HAVE QUITE A FUNCTIONAL SHAPE...
...SO... YOU PEEL IT...
THEY TASTE BEST WHEN THE BLACK SPOTS START SHOWING UP!
ARE EVEN THE FRUITS ADVANCED IN THIS KINGDOM!?
.....
IT CAN BE EATEN WITHOUT SULLYING THE HANDS AT ALL .
HOMF!
(PAKU CRUNCH)
...
MMPH
MMPH
MMPH.
GROWN WITH THE HEAT OF A BATH, NO LESS!!
I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO GIVE THESE OUT TO VISITORS.
..... DON'T JUST STARE AT IT, EAT UP!

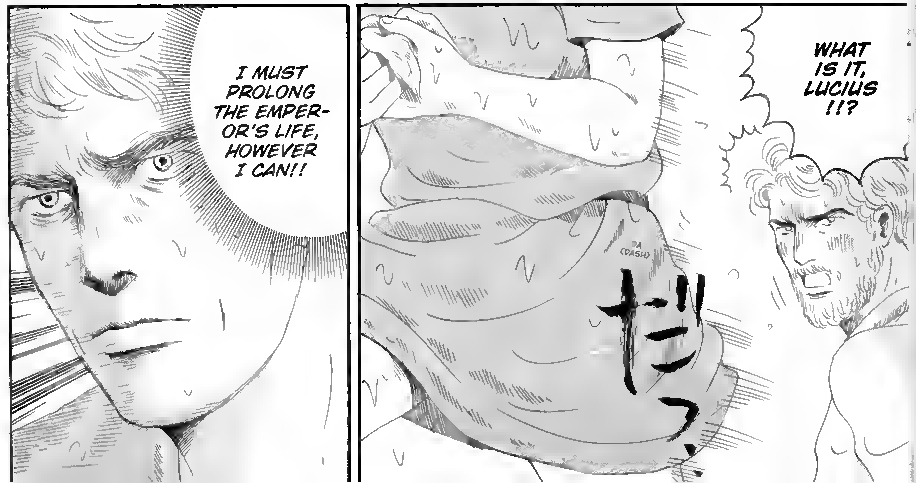
SUCH A RICH AND CREAMY TEXTURE...
AND IT'S NOT SOUR!!
HIRUZI OKAMOTO
もぐ...
MM... WHAT IS THIS!?
IT'S FLUFFY, YET THERE IS NO NECTAR...
THE FLAVOR IS GENTLE...
AND THE MORE YOU EAT, THE MORE THE GOODNESS SEEMS TO SEEP INTO YOUR TONGUE...
THAT GOOD, HUH?!
OH, NOW YOU'RE JUST ACTING, FOREIGNER-SAN.. HA-HA..
TOSS THE PEEL IN THE TRASH
WELL, I'LL JUST BE GOING...
SEEDS!! I MUST HAVE ITS SEEDS!!
THAT'S IT!!
I CAN'T BE SURE, BUT IF THERE WERE CROCODILES NEARBY, IT COULD BE THE ONE..
THE FRUIT THAT EMPEROR HADRIAN TASTED ON THE BANKS OF THE NILE!?
IT WAS A TASTE LIKE NOTHING OF THIS WORLD..
AH...
COULD THIS BE IT...?

GA (WHACK)
<WAI—>
EXPECTA!
WAIT!
SEMINA HUIUS FRUCTUS...
I NEED THE FRUIT SEEDS...
バッシャーン
BASSHAAN (SPLASH)
IT'S GONE!!
AH!?
GOBOBO (BLUB)
ゴボボ
ボボ
BOBO

I CANNOT RETURN TO ROME WITHOUT IT!!
ゴボボボ…
GOBOBOBO
PUKA
PUKA
PUKA
THERE IT IS!!
...us!
SNAP OUT OF IT!!
OPEN YOUR EYES, LUCIUS!
GU CETSTCHO
THE PEACE OF ROME DEPENDS ON THAT FRUIT!!
DAMN
PACHI (POW)
LUCI—
AH! YOU'RE AWAKE!!







«BANANA SEEDS. THE TYPE SOLD IN JAPAN HAS NO SEEDS; THE BLACK BUMPS ARE TRACES OF THEM.

BRILLIANT, LUCIUS...
A NILE-MODELED THERMAE...
BOTH I AND MY CROCODILE ARE IN GOOD SPIRITS AGAIN...
I FEEL ENTIRELY AT PEACE...
PERHAPS THERE IS LIFE IN ME YET..
THE FATE OF THE EMPIRE RESTS ON THIS SINGLE SEED!!

KON
CCONN
コーン
KON
CCONN
コーン
HE SEEMS MUCH IMPROVED I AM RELIEVED
HE IS RELAXING IN THE BATH NEXT DOOR AS WE SPEAK.
HUH!?
AH, CELONIUS! I'M JUST MAKING THE PARTITION FOR THE CROCODILE SIDE OF THE THERMAE.
LUCIUS! HOW IS THE CONSTRUCTION PROCEEDING?
HOW IS HIS HIGHNESS' CONDITION?
WHAT!?
ISN'T THAT WHERE THE CROCODILE IS BEING ALLOWED TO LIVE!?
.....
THE BATH NEXT DOOR!?
OH NO!
YES... WHAT OF IT?

SIGH...
THE IMPERATOR'S REIGN WILL CONTINUE, IT SEEMS...
BUT IN A WAY, THIS INCIDENT BROUGHT HIM BACK TO HIS SENSES.
SHONBORI (DEPRESSED)
しょんぼり
EMPEROR HADRIAN WAS FURIOUS...
AND AT LEAST HE WASN'T HURT..
AT LONG LAST, I HAVE SUCCEEDED IN CULTIVATING THE SEEDS OF THAT FRUIT!!
M (GLARE)
PLUS, THERE IS STILL SOMETHING SPECIAL LEFT FOR ME TO PRESENT TO HIS HIGHNESS!!
KAGA (TWISTED)
カガ
HMM?
WITH THAT, THE EMPEROR COULD LIVE ANOTHER DECADE .. OR TWO!
AAAAAH!

YOUR THIGHS ARE ROUND AND SUPPLE WITH YOUTH...
ZUSA (RUSTLE)
ズサ
YOUR BREASTS ARE PERFECTLY FORMED TO BE CARESSED.
IF ONLY I COULD LIE IN YOUR EMBRACE FOREVER...
O, VENUS! MY GODDESS OF LOVE!!
ME TOO, CEIONIUS!!
OH! OH! CEIONIUS!
EXCUSE ME..... THAT'S MY CROP.....
SQUEEZE ME TIGHTER!!
BANANA BUD

At Hadrian's residence in the suburbs of Rome, there is a great pond named Canopus. This pond was built to resemble the stretch of the Nile river running between Alexandria and the town of Canopus.

On the banks of this Canopus are many beautiful sculptures, beloved by the emperor. What caught my eye in particular was the sculpture of a crocodile. Perhaps Hadrian had this Nile crocodile carved to bring Canopus that extra edge of verisimilitude.

As I showed briefly in the manga, Hadrian had a lover named Antinous. When they first met on Hadrian's sojourn to Greece, Antinous was a beautiful boy, not yet twenty. Later, when they traveled down the Nile on their stay in Egypt, Antinous fell from the boat and drowned. Whether this was suicide or the work of someone else, it is said that Hadrian's grief over the death of the boy he loved was uncontrollable.

Hadrian took several actions to help him overcome this tragic incident, one of which was to create the town of Antinopolis on the banks of the Nile where his lover died, and another was to have Antinous deified. In ancient Egypt, the crocodile was the symbol of the Nile itself and worshipped as the god of fertility. Because it was said that the victims of crocodiles were turned into gods, Hadrian changed the official account to say that Antinous was killed and eaten by crocodiles in order to convince others that his lover should now be worshipped.

Crocodile at Canopus
(Tibur, Italy)

Egyptian crocodile mummy

We do not know exactly when the crocodile statue in that mansion in Tibur was crafted, but it could have filled Hadrian with deep and powerful thoughts as he gazed upon it.

When I told *Comic Beam* Editor in Chief Okumura this story, he said, "You can see crocodiles at a hot spring! They've got bananas too!" Having just returned to Japan after living overseas, I set out with the editor in chief to see this surreal combination of crocodile, hot spring, and bananas. Somehow, the sorrowful tale I had built up in my head of Hadrian and his Nile River had been overshadowed by the editor in chief's excitement.

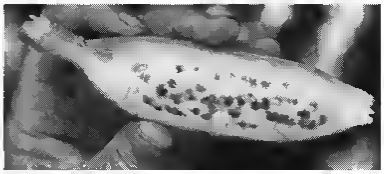
"I never knew crocodiles could be so cute," he exclaimed, sparkles in his eyes, as he watched the crocodile relax in the bath, back feet on the floor and eyelids closed.

"Okay, now let's eat some bananas!!" The indoor spring utilized the heat and steam to cultivate the tropical fruit.

That's how this particular episode ended up with so many bananas. As I was doing research on bananas, I learned for the first time that the type of banana we eat does not have any seeds (though I drew a seeded banana in the story).

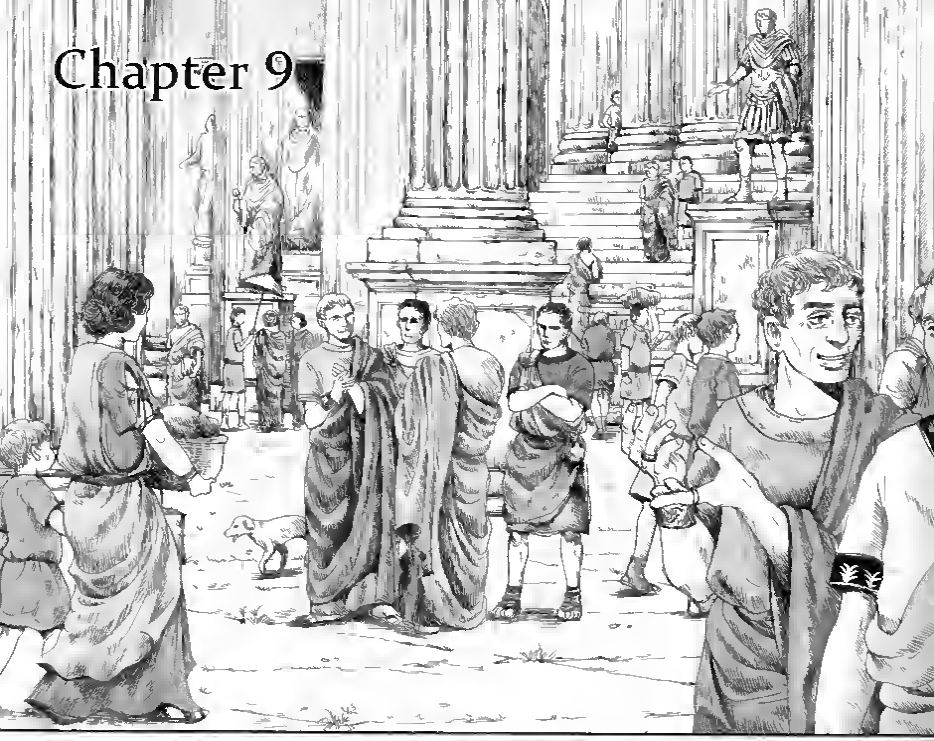
The banana is quite a bewitching fruit. Alexander the Great ate them in India on his travels, but I'm certain the gourmets in Rome would have gone mad for them if they could have eaten them.

A crocodile enjoying a hot bath in Atagawa



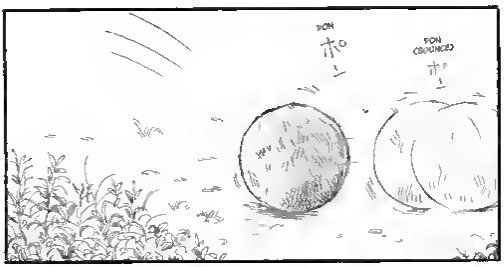
A wild banana, packed with seeds

Chapter 9



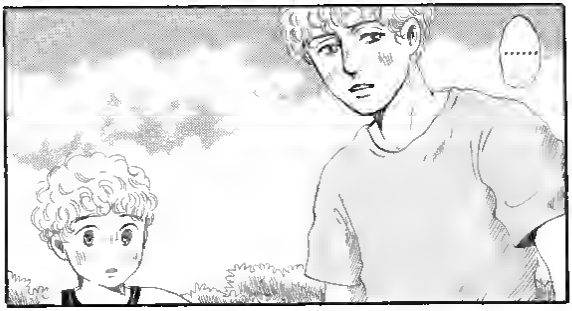
HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS, CAESAR PUBLIUS AELIUS HADRIANUS—
...HAS TAKEN A SON TO BE HIS RIGHTFUL HEIR!
ZAWA
ZAWA
ZAWA CHUUUUU
...IS LUCIUS CEIONIUS COMMODUS!
THIS SON, WHO WILL BE THE FUTURE EMPEROR—
...SHALL BE GIVEN MILITARY TRIBUNE STATUS AND COMMAND, AS BEFITS THAT RANK!
VIA THIS ADOPTION, THE EVENTUAL SUCCESSOR TO THE EMPIRE...
HE SHALL TAKE FOR HIS NAME LUCIUS AURELIUS CAESAR!!
.....
IN HONOR OF THIS EVENT, THE EMPEROR IS OPENING THE CIRCUS MAXIMUS FOR...
THE GREAT STA WAR

...THE PEOPLE ARE LREADY VIEWING THIS CHOICE WITH CYNICISM...
FROM WHAT I HEAR, HE'S QUITE THE HANDSOME FELLOW..
THAT'S ALL IT TOOK FOR THE EMPEROR TO MAKE HIM A SUCCESSOR
..AND IF THEY'RE SKEPTICAL ALREADY...
...NO DOUBT THE SENATE WILL TEAR HIM TO SHREDS.....
CEIONIUS... NOW AURELIUS CAESAR...
MY BELOVED VENUS
A WEAK, SICKLY WOMANIZER...
EVEN I WONDERED HOW IN THE WORLD THE IMPERATOR CHOSE A MAN LIKE HIM TO RULE .
A FEW DAYS EARLIER, HADRIAN'S MANSION


BON
ポン
BON (BOUNCE)
ポン

GO (HEAD)
!!

HERE IT IS!! THIS WAY, MARCUS!!
.....
..... ?


.....

HI!

YOU HIT THIS MAN WITH THE BALL... YOU MUST APOLOGIZE TO HIM.
LOOK, LUCIUS!
Y-YES...

.....
..... WHO ARE THESE CHILDREN..?

*LATER KNOWN AS MARCUS AURELIUS, THE "PHILOSOPHER EMPEROR" AND THE LAST OF THE "FIVE GOOD EMPERORS." AN EXCELLENT STUDENT WHO WROTE AND STUDIED WHEN NOT RULING THE REALM.
ARE YOU A FRIEND OF THE EMPEROR?
MY NAME IS MARCUS ANNIUS VERUS.*
ARE YOU HURT!?
I'M SO SORRY TO HAVE DISTURBED YOUR RELAXATION!!
NO...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
IS HE A RELATIVE OF EMPEROR HADRIAN'S?
WHAT A CLEVER, WELL-MANNERED BOY...
I AM AN ENGINEER AND ARCHITECT OF BATHS.
MY NAME IS LUCIUS.
YOUR HIGHNESS!
NO, LUCIUS, STAY SEATED!
I DON'T MEAN TO INTRUDE...
AHH! ENGINEER LUCIUS!!
MARCUS, LUCIUS! HERE YOU ARE.....
*LATER KNOWN AS LUCIUS VERUS. HE WAS CO-EMPEROR WITH MARCUS BUT DIED IN THE EIGHTH YEAR OF HIS REIGN

LET'S SEE THE CROCO-DILE!!
LET'S GO, MARCUS!
COME ON!
I WANT TO SEE IT!!
CROC-ODILE !?
...YOUR FATHER WAS LOOKING FOR YOU! HE WANTS TO SHOW YOU THE CROCODILE...
LUCIUS ..
IT WAS AN HONOR TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE, ENGINEER LUCIUS!
I WILL SEE YOU LATER, HIGH-NESS...
YES, OF COURSE!
MARCUS, CAN YOU TAKE HIM TO HIS FATHER?
.....
MARCUS VERUS...

WHAT!?
...THAT BOY IS THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE EMPEROR...
TO TELL THE TRUTH...
...IS ALSO A WORTHY MAN WHO CAN CALMLY DO WHAT IS BEST FOR THE EMPIRE WHEN THE TIME COMES.
OF COURSE, CEIONIUS, DESPITE HIS FAULTS.
I SEE...
MARCUS'S GRANDFATHER IS ONE OF MY MOST TRUSTED STATESMEN. HE HAS AN EXCELLENT BACKGROUND, A SHARP MIND, A HUMBLE PERSONALITY...
AT AGE SIX, HE WAS ALREADY A MEMBER OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER, AND THIS YEAR, HE WILL SERVE AS PREFECT FOR THE LATIN FESTIVAL.
BUT MARCUS IS ONLY FIFTEEN...
HE HAS ALREADY DECIDED TO BETROTH HIS OWN DAUGHTER TO MARCUS.
BUT THERE ARE TIMES WHEN HE RELIES UPON MARCUS, A BOY FIFTEEN YEARS HIS JUNIOR...

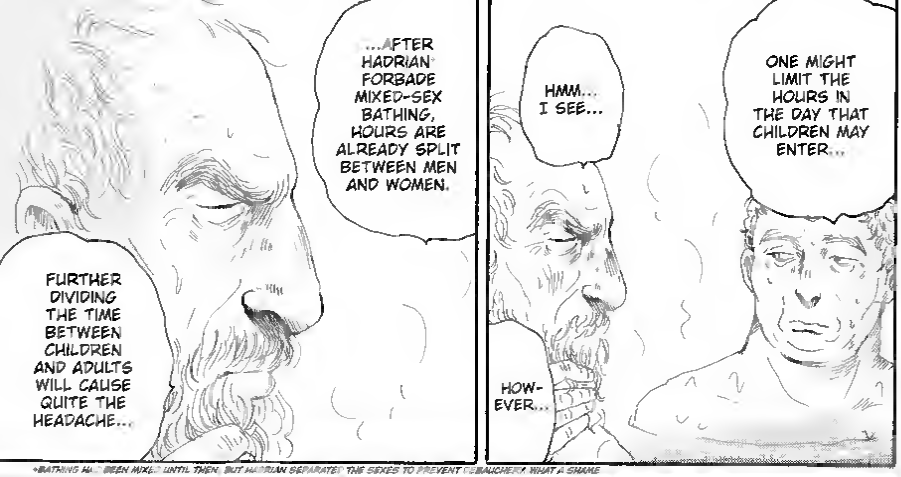
...HE WILL BE A VALUABLE SUBJECT FOR CEIONIUS AND WILL PROTECT THE REALM WITH HIS WISDOM...
I BELIEVE THAT IN DUE TIME...
FAR TOO YOUNG TO RULE!
YES, I SEE
FATHER!!
LUCIUS! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!
CEIONIUS WISHES THAT AS WELL.
IF MARCUS WERE TO BE EMPEROR, I WOULD NOT NEED TO CURRY THE FAVOR OF THE PEOPLE WITH THERMAE.
HE HAS THE POTENTIAL TO WIN THE PUBLIC TRUST ON HIS OWN.
I AM PREPARED TO PASS ON AND LEAVE THIS WORLD BEHIND IN GOOD HANDS.
AS LONG AS MARCUS LIVES...
CEIONIUS, ON THE OTHER HAND...
.....

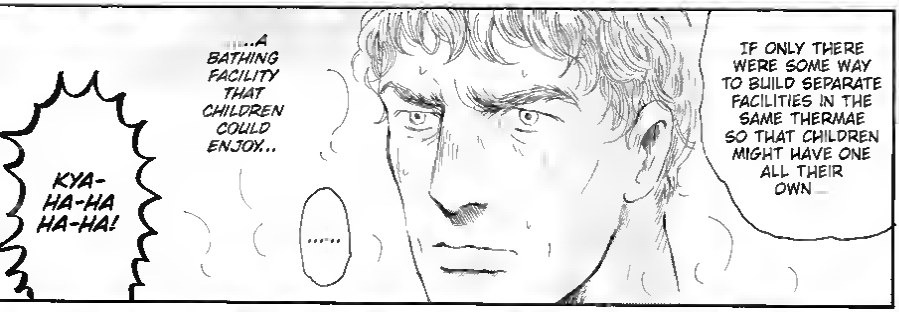
THEY COULD EASILY DRAG HIM DOWN FROM THE THRONE, SHOULD THEY CHOOSE TO.
THE SENATE DISLIKES ME, AND THEY WILL DIG DEEP INTO CEIONIUS'S BACKGROUND AND SPREAD IT TO THE PEOPLE.
APPEALING TO THE COMMON PEOPLE WILL BE CRUCIAL AS A MEANS TO BUY TIME, LUCIUS.
GYAA (CAW)
GYAA
GYAA
CEIONIUS MUST REMAIN IN POWER UNTIL MARCUS IS OLD ENOUGH TO RULE...
I KNEW THE GREAT IMPORT OF THE TASK I HAD BEEN GIVEN...
I NEED YOU, LUCIUS...
YES, HIGH-NESS!!
BUILD A THERMAE SO GRAND AND SO PERFECT...
...THAT THE PEOPLE WILL THINK THEIR IDEAL EMPEROR HAS COME TO MAKE THEIR DREAMS A REALITY.

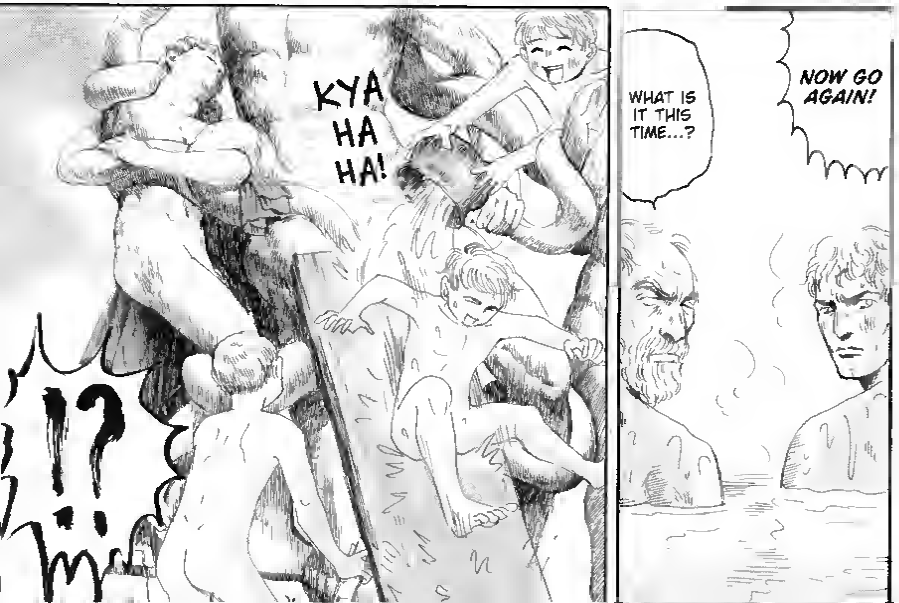
CAN I TRULY CREATE SOMETHING EVEN GREATER THAN THE BATHS OF TRAJAN?
...AM I CAPABLE OF MAKING THAT REQUEST A REALITY...?
...BUT...
AN ARCHITECT OF TRAJAN, WHO RULED BEFORE HADRIAN. LUCIUS' BATHING FRIEND...
APOLLODORUS!!
.....LUCIUS...!! ENGINEER LUCIUS!!?
BUT IF I DO NOT, THE PEACE THAT EMPEROR HADRIAN HAS BUILT WILL BE LOST.....
UGH, MY STOMACH...
...AND THEN I BEGAN TO EXPERIENCE STOMACH CRAMPS... HA-HA...
I WAS DEEP IN THOUGHT...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
ER... WELL...
OH? IS THAT...

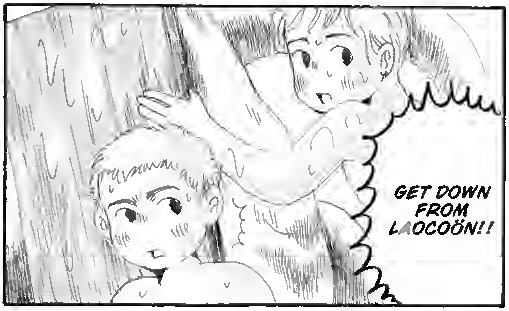
HAS HIS HIGHNESS PUSHED SOME BIZARRE TASK ON YOU AGAIN?
LUCIUS... WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN A WHILE, AND THAT'S THE FIRST QUESTION YOU ASK?
APOLLODORUS, WHEN YOU BUILT THIS THERMAE FOR EMPEROR TRAJAN...
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING ABOUT AT THE TIME...?
WHAT DID I THINK ABOUT...?
.. ...
WELL, THERE'S NO POINT DISCUSSING SUCH A DRY SUBJECT OUTSIDE OF THE THERMAE!!
...I WASN'T THINKING ABOUT ANYTHING SPECIAL IN PARTICULAR ..
EMPEROR TRAJAN WAS A WONDERFUL MAN AND BENEFACTOR TO ME...
MY ADMIRATION FOR HIM WAS THE SOURCE OF ENERGY THAT CREATED THIS BATH...
.....

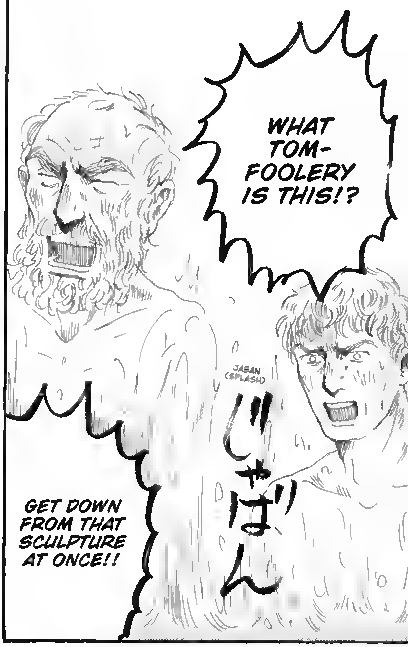
...ACTUALLY...
(THUD)
SO.. WHAT DID HADRIAN ASK YOU TO DO?
NOT A BIT OF ADMIRATION.
ALL THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN I THINK OF THAT PHILANDERING WEAKLING CEIONIUS IS RAGE.
WITHOUT ANY WARS, THE POPULATION ONLY GROWS...
...IT SEEMS THERE ARE MORE CHILDREN IN THE THERMAE THAN EVER.
RUN AWAY!
AAAH!
HEY! THE BATH IS NOT A PLACE TO PLAY WITH BALLS!!
...
YOU MAY HAVE A POINT.
SO THEY MUST ENTERTAIN THEMSELVES...
WELL, THE BATHS AREN'T BUILT TO APPEAL TO CHILDREN...
HYA HA HA!
BUT BEING SURROUNDED BY SCREAMING CHILDREN MAKES IT HARD TO RELAX...
(SPLASH)
(SPLASH)
(SPLASH)

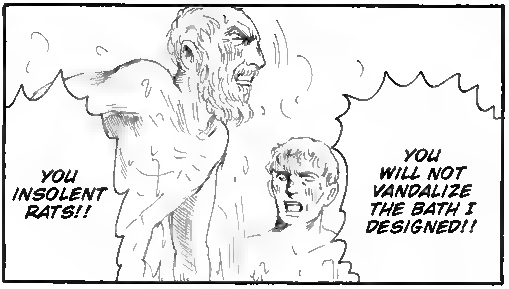

...AFTER HADRIAN* FORBADE MIXED-SEX BATHING, HOURS ARE ALREADY SPLIT BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN.
FURTHER DIVIDING THE TIME BETWEEN CHILDREN AND ADULTS WILL CAUSE QUITE THE HEADACHE...
HMM... I SEE...
ONE MIGHT LIMIT THE HOURS IN THE DAY THAT CHILDREN MAY ENTER...
HOW-EVER...
*BATHING HA[illegible] BEEN MIXE[illegible] UNTIL THEN. BUT HADRIAN SEPARATE[illegible] THE SEXES TO PREVENT [illegible]BAUCHERY. WHAT A SHAME

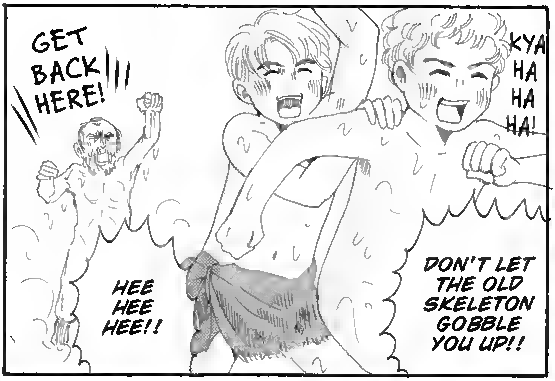

KYA-HA-HA HA-HA!
...A BATHING FACILITY THAT CHILDREN COULD ENJOY..
.....
IF ONLY THERE WERE SOME WAY TO BUILD SEPARATE FACILITIES IN THE SAME THERMAE SO THAT CHILDREN MIGHT HAVE ONE ALL THEIR OWN—


KYA HA HA!
!?
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME...?
NOW GO AGAIN!


GET DOWN FROM LAOCOÖN!!


WHAT TOM-FOOLERY IS THIS!?
JABAN CRPLASHO
じゃばん
GET DOWN FROM THAT SCULPTURE AT ONCE!!


YOU INSOLENT RATS!!
YOU WILL NOT VANDALIZE THE BATH I DESIGNED!!


GET BACK HERE!!!
KYA HA HA HA!
HEE HEE HEE!!
DON'T LET THE OLD SKELETON GOBBLE YOU UP!!

GET THAT FILTHY BOARD OFF OF THERE!!
AAAH! RUN!
AAHH!

STOP RUN-NING!!
HEY!
SHUUUUUU
.....I SEE...
BASHA CRPLASHO
BASHA

THAT'S IT...!! I'LL INSTALL THINGS KIDS WILL LOVE RATHER THAN STATUES...
IF I BUILD IT, THE PEOPLE MAY COME TO LOVE CEIONIUS...!
LET'S GO JUMP INTO THE BATH!!
NOW THAT THE POPULATION OF CHILDREN HAS RISEN, WHAT ROME NEEDS IS A BATH THAT KIDS CAN ENJOY!!
AAAH!
!?
SPLASH
AAAAH!!

THERE'S INDEED NO WAY TO THINK IN THIS BATH...
...GOOD GRIEF...
I'LL HAVE TO DRAW UP A MATERIALS PLAN AND DISCUSS IT WITH THE EMPEROR...
...HMM? ARE THOSE THE BOY'S LEGS.....!?

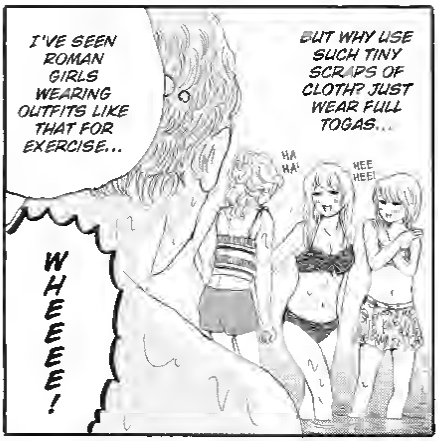
!?
A WOMAN!?
ZABUUN (BLOOSH)
HUFF!
HUFF!
ZAPPA (SPLASH)
BWAH!
SOMETHING'S WRONG... I NEED TO SURFACE FIRST.....

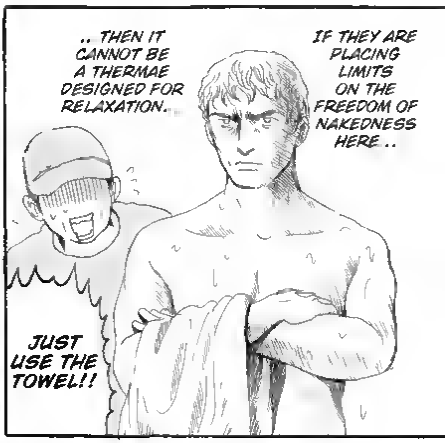
A WATER-FALL!!
A SMALL WATERFALL, RUNNING OVER WHITE ROCK.
しょろろろ
A HOT WATER-FALL...?
YAAAH!!!
A RIVER OF HOT WATER!
IT'S HOT!
...
WAIT...
HMM.
CAMPO COMUNO

ゴボボボ
GOBOBOBO (BLUB BLUB)
ザバ!!
ZABA! (SPLOOSH)
BWAAH!
EEEEK!!
ボコ
BOKOKO
ゴボボ
GOBOBO

WHA...
HUFF!
HUFF!
EEEK!
YAHOO!
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS!?
EWW!
IS THIS ANOTHER FORM OF THERMAE!?
...WITH FLAT-FACED CHILDREN SLIPPING DOWN...
STREAMS OF WATER FLOWING DOWN A MARBLE SLOPE...
WOO-HOO!!

...OF CREATING SUCH A THING!?
WHO WOULD GO TO ALL THE TROUBLE...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HEY! YOU THERE!
AHH, THAT WAS FUN!
WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE!?
WHAT REASON COULD THEY HAVE HAD FOR BUILDING THIS!?
THIS IS A SWIMSUIT ZONE!!
COME ON!
?
OH YOU'RE OREIGN
SOME-BODY HELP! THAT GUY'S NAKED!
EWW, HE'S NOT WEARING A SWIM-SUIT!
LET'S DO THAT SLIDE AGAIN!
...COME TO THINK OF IT, NO ONE HERE IS FULLY NAKED FOR SOME REASON...
.....
HURRY!! JUST COVER YOUR CROTCH, AT LEAST!!
LOOK, WRAP THIS TOWEL AROUND YOUR WAIST!
HERE!!


I'VE SEEN ROMAN GIRLS WEARING OUTFITS LIKE THAT FOR EXERCISE..
BUT WHY USE SUCH TINY SCRAPS OF CLOTH? JUST WEAR FULL TOGAS...
HA HA!
HEE HEE!
WHEEEE!


.. THEN IT CANNOT BE A THERMAE DESIGNED FOR RELAXATION..
IF THEY ARE PLACING LIMITS ON THE FREEDOM OF NAKEDNESS HERE ..
JUST USE THE TOWEL!!

ばっしゃーん
BASHAAN! (SPLASH)

...

COULD THIS BE SOME KIND OF TRAINING FACILITY TO STRENGTHEN MENTAL DISCIPLINE!?
OKAY, LINE UP IN ALL THREE LANES!

...AS THEY HURTLE DOWN THOSE STREAMS...
THESE FLAT-FACED CHILDREN SCREAM AND HOLLER...
..

PERHAPS THIS COUNTRY IS DOING THE SAME WITH HOT WATER!!
SPARTA ONCE TRIED TO STRENGTHEN ITS MIGHT BY PUTTING CHILDREN THROUGH GRUELING TRAINING...
...
HONES ONE'S MENTAL EDGE!!
PII (TYPE?)
ピ
ー
ッ
LET'S SEE HOW WELL THIS HOT WATER SLIDE...
GAGGA
ニャ
GU (HAMPER)
ぐっ
ZURU (SLIP)
ずる
!?

ITAI
ITAIIOSHO
フロン
TASUKETE MIHO
HELP ME!
しゃーよ!
SHAAAA
(SPLASH)
DOBONN
(SPLASH)
EEK!

THAT WAS...
HUFF
HUFF

ZAPA CEPLASUO
PFAAH!!
HUFF
HUFF

GOPO (BLUP)
ゴポ…

AAH!
THIS WILL SURELY GIVE ONE COURAGE!!

...BUT EXCIT-ING!!
...SCARY...
HUFF
HUFF

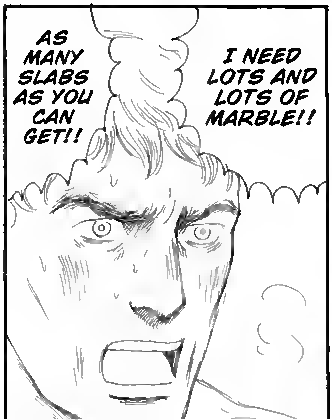
SOMETHING THAT WILL ENJOYABLY STRENGTHEN CHILD AND ADULT ALIKE!!
WEE HEE!
BUT IT DOES NOT FEEL ONEROUS IN THE LEAST!

THE PEOPLE OF ROME WILL LOVE THIS!!
WATCH OUUUT!!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

MAR-
BLE!!
...HO, LUCIUS! WHERE ARE YOUR CLOTHES...?

MARCUS! MARCUS!!


AS MANY SLABS AS YOU CAN GET!!
I NEED LOTS AND LOTS OF MARBLE!!

...HUH?

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS WILD NEW THERMAE BEING BUILT!?
じはぼぼぼぼ
ATTILIVS
THREE MONTHS LATER
WHEN WILL THE PEOPLE BE ALLOWED TO USE IT?
AND IT'S SOMETHING ENTIRELY NEW, NEVER BEFORE SEEN.
I CAN HARDLY WAIT...!!
OHH? MAYBE THIS NEW EMPEROR'S NOT SUCH A BAD GUY.
IT'S SUPPOSEDLY A GIFT TO THE PEOPLE OF ROME FROM AURELIUS CAESAR.
ゴオオオ
ズ…ズズズ
W-WAIT... SLOW DOWN, CONSUL!! ...AAAH!!

!!!
ミカ!
AAAH!!
.....
AAAH!
YAAH!
I'M SORRY!
I SAID I WAS TO BE THE FIRST!!

.....
.....
WHEN WILL THE KIDS GET A CHANCE TO PLAY?
AAH!
AH!
AH!
FATHER'S NOT BEING FAIR!
SOB!
WHY ARE ONLY THE ADULTS USING IT!?
...I DO NOT KNOW MYSELF!!
HIC!
SOB!
YOU BUILT THIS FOR CHILDREN, DIDN'T YOU?
HIC!
I BUILT IT IN THE HOPE THAT THE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE FAITH IN THE NEW EMPEROR!!
I GAVE MY BEST FOR THE SAKE OF ROME'S FUTURE!
...
HE'S SCARY
...
NOT SO, PRAETOR! YOU HAVE ALREADY SLID TWICE, HAVE YOU NOT!?
IT WAS TO BE MY TURN NEXT!!
.....THIS IS NOT PRESERVING ROME'S PEACE, BUT SEEDING HER FUTURE DOWNFALL...

MARCUS VERUS!
HAVE NO FEAR, LUCIUS!
ALAS... IF THOSE FLAT-FACES SAW ME NOW...
ENGINEER LUCIUS!
THEY WILL SOON GROW TIRED OF IT.
WE'LL JUST WAIT UNTIL THAT HAPPENS!
...WH-WHAT A BRILLIANT INSIGHT ...!!
DOES NOT EVERY ADULT WISH FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO HIS BOYHOOD?
I THINK THE MEN OF ROME HAVE WISHED FOR SOMETHING NEW LIKE THIS..
THIS IS FUN!!
SUPERB!! IN THAT CASE, IT'S MY TURN NEXT!!
APOLLODORUS BZ
SHABAM SPLASH

I once acted as an interpreter for an Italian orchestra that was performing on tour in Japan. This proud and historic orchestra enchanted audiences everywhere they went with their thrilling performances, but one off day while on the tour in Sapporo, the musicians were all abuzz about an "incredibly fun *terme* in the area."

This was Sapporo Terme, an amusement park installed at a hot spring outside of downtown Sapporo. Apparently some of the group had visited it already, and tales of its wonders had spread throughout the orchestra, such that I had to act as guide on a field trip for the whole group

These musicians, who had just the previous night been stone-faced and regal on stage, turned into maniacs the moment they stepped into the park, freezing the local children and dating couples in their tracks with their wild romping and carousing.

They found the slide to be the most fun of all. I'm sure Italy has water-slides at its resort pools as well, but they likely wouldn't visit places like that in their home cities. Here at the Sapporo Terme, as strange foreign tourists, they were free to blow off the stress and fatigue of their long and strenuous tour with every violent splash of water. I found it quite impressive that when the orchestra had finished its tour and was preparing to leave, the most common answer to the question, "What was your favorite part of Japan?" was "Sapporo Terme."

Hakone's water slide

I've always hated falling at high speed since I was a child, and I treated playground slides not as something to enjoy sliding down, but a means to get down from the stairs I had just climbed. After I suffered a broken bone in a sledding accident in Hokkaido, I was determined that I would never again experience that sensation of falling. So while I merely stood by and watched the Italian musicians romp and cavort down the slide at the Sapporo Terme, I found that in order to draw this chapter, I would need to undergo the experience of the slide once more, at age forty-two.

On a chilly February day, with Editor in Chief Okumura and attractive young editor A-san in tow, I traveled to Hakone for some waterslide research. With the editor in chief's utterly non-reassuring assurance that "this is way easier than bungee jumping" still ringing in my ears, I surrendered my personal well-being and dignity to the giant waterslide. I needed to put myself into the mind-set of Lucius, who had never experienced any form of transport faster than a horse. But in reality, I had nowhere near the presence of mind to analyze how he would feel, and the only thought that came to mind to describe the experience was a radial spray of speed lines.

After I finished this horrifying, resolution-demanding waterslide ordeal, surviving the violent spray and rising from the pool at the end, I felt Miss A's pained smile and stare burning into me. And I distinctly remember the absence of cheers and applause from the rest of the crowd in recognition of my bravery and sacrifice leaving a lonely void in my heart.

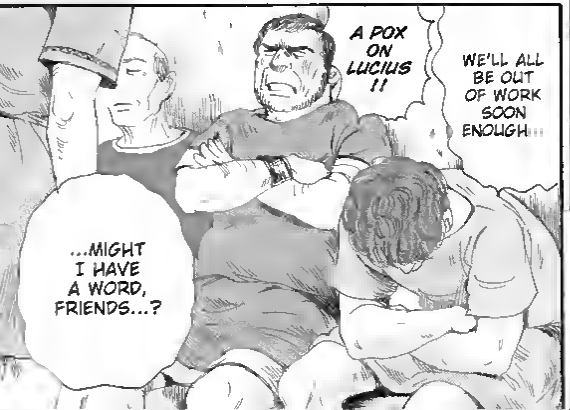
Editor in Chief Okumura after the slide.

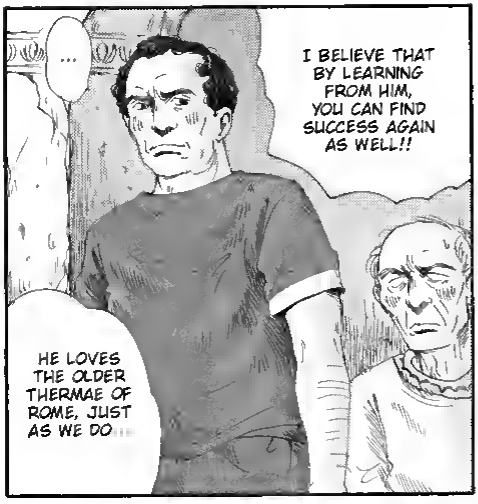
AAAH!! THERE'S SOMEONE INSIDE!!
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
...THIS... IS...
CASA
...A HAUNTED... HOUSE...
HEE HEE HA HA!
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE! WA-HA-HA-HA!
IT'S A GHOST!!
GET BACK HERE, YOU LITTLE BRATS!!
Chapter 10

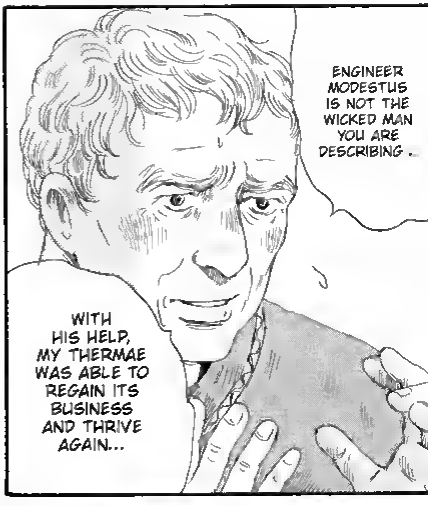
DAMNED HELLIONS!
FUSCUS!
I KNOW, FATHER!
WE'RE ABOUT TO START THE MEETING!
NO RESPECT FOR THE PROPERTY OF OTHERS!!
GASU (SCRAPE)
GASHI
GASHI
WELL, MAKE IT QUICK. EVERYONE'S ON EDGE...
I NEED TO ERASE THIS GRAFFITI FIRST.

...HAVE STOLEN ALL OF OUR CLIENTELE.
...HE AND HIS BIZARRE THERMAE SPRINGING UP LEFT AND RIGHT..
THE PEOPLE WON'T SPARE A SECOND LOOK FOR THE OLDER BATHS ANYMORE..

THE ONLY REASON WE'RE IN THIS STATE...
...IS BECAUSE OF THAT DAMNED LUCIUS MODESTUS!!
HE MUST PAY FOR THIS!!


A POX ON LUCIUS !!
WE'LL ALL BE OUT OF WORK SOON ENOUGH...
...MIGHT I HAVE A WORD, FRIENDS...?


...
I BELIEVE THAT BY LEARNING FROM HIM, YOU CAN FIND SUCCESS AGAIN AS WELL!!
HE LOVES THE OLDER THERMAE OF ROME, JUST AS WE DO...


ENGINEER MODESTUS IS NOT THE WICKED MAN YOU ARE DESCRIBING...
WITH HIS HELP, MY THERMAE WAS ABLE TO REGAIN ITS BUSINESS AND THRIVE AGAIN...

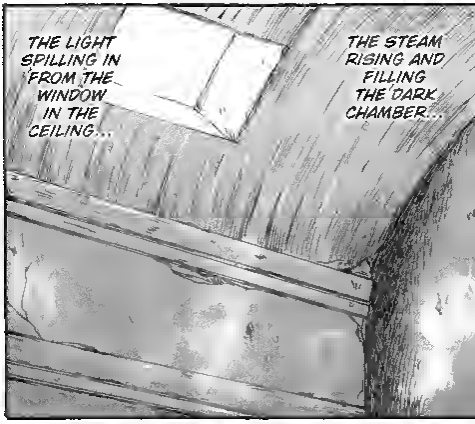
...FOR THE OPERATORS OF THE MORE TRADITIONAL THERMAE IN THE CITY...?
....IF THAT IS TRUE, THEN WHY DOES HE NOT ACT WITH MORE CONSIDERATION...

ROME IS HEAD OVER HEELS FOR THIS NEW SLIDING BATH...
...

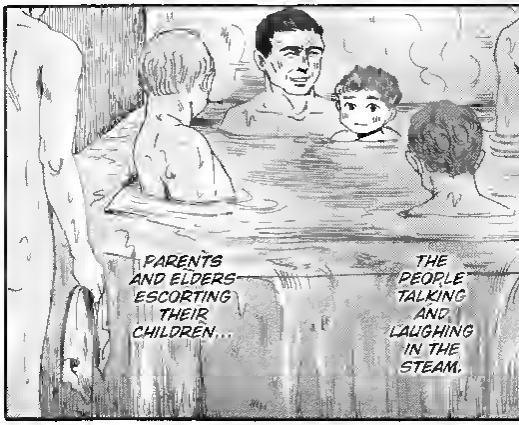
AND OUR FAMILY HAS RUN THIS THERMAE FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY.
MY FATHER AND I DO NOT SEE MORE THAN FIVE CUSTOMERS IN AN ENTIRE DAY ANYMORE

.....
REMEMBER THE OLD DAYS, WHEN OUR THERMAE WERE FULL OF LIFE...!
THINK BACK, FELLOWS!
.....
.....
...BUT THAT MADE IT EASIER TO MEET STRANGERS...
OUR BATH IS CRAMPED AND DARK, WITH A TUB NOT SO BIG...
HA HA HA...
...THOSE WERE GOOD DAYS...

THE MAJESTIC STATUE OF APOLLO AS THE LIGHT HITS IT...


THE LIGHT SPILLING IN FROM THE WINDOW IN THE CEILING...
THE STEAM RISING AND FILLING THE DARK CHAMBER...

READY TO QUENCH THE THIRST OF THE STEAMING CUSTOMERS...
HONEYED WATER SELLERS JUST OUTSIDE THE THERMAE...


PARENTS AND ELDERS ESCORTING THEIR CHILDREN...
THE PEOPLE TALKING AND LAUGHING IN THE STEAM.

BUT HIS TASTE FOR NOVELTY IS RUNNING THE OLD WAYS OUT OF BUSINESS!!
SO HADRIAN LOVES NEW, SHINY THINGS— FINE!!

PEOPLE WERE JUST AS HAPPY BEFORE THAT CAME ALONG!!
WE DON'T NEED THIS ODD MILK JUICE!

.....
.....
FORGIVE ME FOR BEING LATE!
...
ENGINEER MODESTUS!
...
WHAT DOES THIS DARK MOOD MEAN...?
I AM LUCIUS MODESTUS, THERMAE ENGINEER...
THANK YOU FOR COMING OUT ON SUCH A BUSY DAY...
AH! CASCUS...

...
...
LET ME INTRODUCE YOU...
THESE MEN ARE AN ASSOCIATION OF THERMAE OWNERS IN THIS REGION OF THE CITY
I HAD A HARD TIME FINDING THE RIGHT PLACE
NOT A PROBLEM THE ENTIRE GROUP ISN'T EVEN HERE YET
EVER SINCE OUR CUSTOMERS WERE STOLEN AWAY BY THIS NEW SLIDE THERMAE...
...MOST OF THE BATHS IN ROME ARE ONE STEP AWAY FROM CLOSING FOR GOOD!
WE PRIVATE BATH OWNERS HAVE TO BAND TOGETHER TO SURVIVE THESE DAYS...
A BUSINESS UNION...?
HAH...
.....
...AND...
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE TRADITIONAL PUBLIC BATHS OF ROME DIE OUT ENTIRELY...
AND WE DON'T HAVE THE FUNDS TO GO ABOUT CREATING NEW ONES.

...BUT YOU'RE RUINING IT FOR THE REST OF US!
YOU MAY BE THE EMPEROR'S PET FAVORITE...
HE'S EXACTLY RIGHT!!
...AND THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT FOR THOSE STUPID INVENTIONS OF YOURS!
FUSCUS! SETTLE DOWN...
WE CANNOT SUSTAIN OUR BUSINESS BY THESE MEASURES MUCH LONGER!!
I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE MONEY TO PAY SLAVES TO STOKE THE FIRES! MY FATHER HAS TO DO THE WORK!
AH...
HMM?
LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO US!!
WE'RE ALL RUINED!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'VE DONE!?
ROME'S TRADITIONAL BATHS WILL BE GONE, ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!

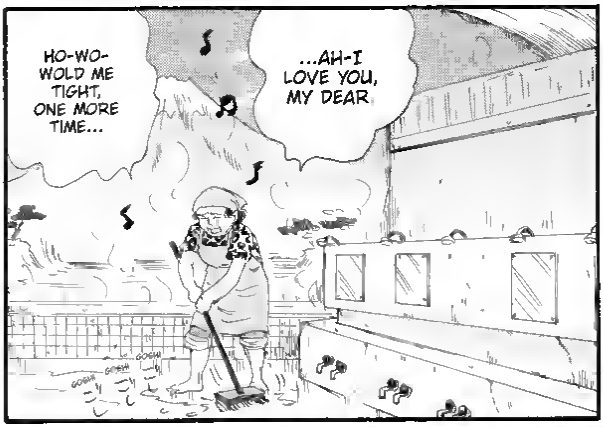
...I WAS ONLY...
BURU (TREMBLE)
BURU
...THINKING OF ROME'S FUTURE...

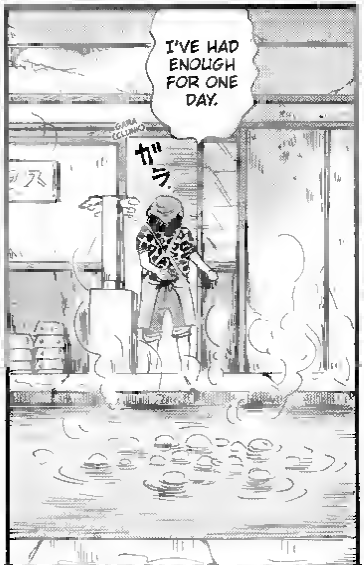
I HAD NO IDEA THAT ANY OF THIS WOULD COME TO PASS .!!
SOMETHING MUST BE DONE HERE
BEFORE THEIR BUSINESS DRIES UP...
THE OLD, TRADITIONAL THERMAE MUST NOT VANISH FROM ROME...
SOMETHING MUST BE DONE.
THE OLD AND GOOD MUST BE TREASURED IN EQUAL MEASURE WITH THE NEW...
THAT IS THE KEY TO ROME'S GENEROSITY...
KURU (COO)
POFU (PLUFF)
THEY ARE RIGHT, OF COURSE
BASA (FLAP)
BASA
BASA
ENGINEER MODESTUS...
.....
.....

I KNOW...
DON'T JUST SIT IN THAT COOL BATH ALL DAY. YOU'LL CATCH A COLD!
...LUCIUS!
...WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO HEAT SOME FRESH WATER?
NO, THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY!
BUT I WISH TO STAY HERE FOR A WHILE LONGER...
BASA (FLAP)
BASA
BASA
...FILLED WITH THE JOY OF SHARING THE BATH WITH OTHERS...
THIS PLACE WAS LIVELY AND PACKED WITH PEOPLE ONCE...

...THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN THIS CRUCIAL FACT..
PECHA (SPLAT)
I'VE BEEN SO BUSY FOLLOWING THE EMPEROR'S DEMANDS...
IT'S AN INVALUABLE SOURCE OF ENERGY AND LIFE IN OUR SOCIETY..
THAT BIRD JUST POOPED.
EVEN PLINY THE ELDER SAID AS MUCH...
TSUPU (SLIP)
OH!
I CAN'T LEAVE HIM WITH PIGEON DUNG ON HIS HEAD.
OLD OR NOT, APOLLO IS APOLLO.
BASHA (SPLATCH)
ALIGH!

GOSH
ごっし
GOSH (SHIK)
ごっし
GOSH!
ごっし
AHH, AH, AH-AH...

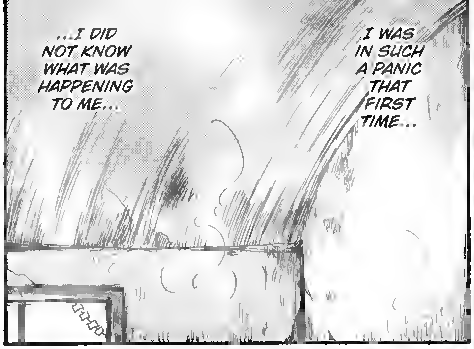

HO-WO-WOLD ME TIGHT, ONE MORE TIME...
...AH-I LOVE YOU, MY DEAR
GOSH
ごっし
GOSH
GOSH

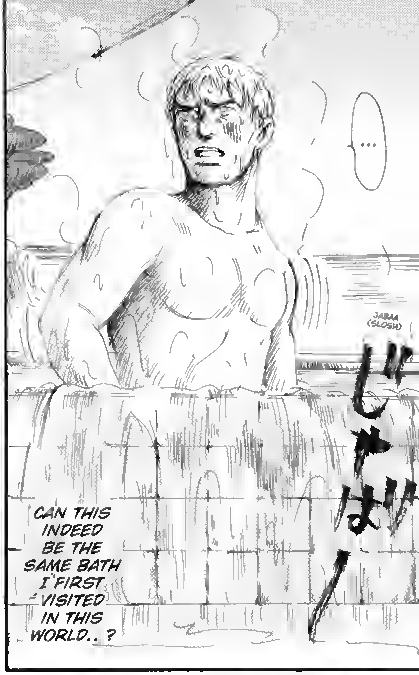

I'VE HAD ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY.
GOSH (CLOSE)
ガラ

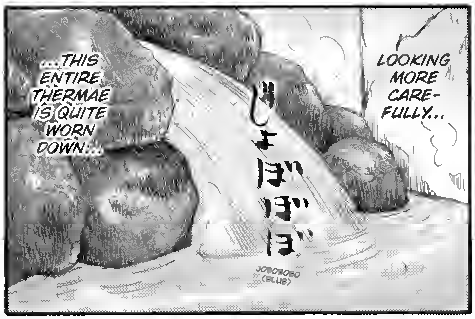
PHEW!
THIS PLACE IS FALLING APART ANYWAY, SO CLEANING ISN'T GOING TO MAKE IT LOOK ANY BETTER!

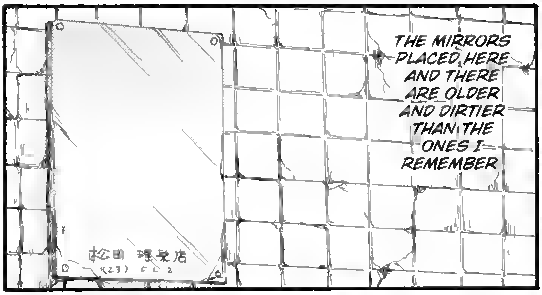
えびす湯

.....
HUFF
HUFF
BWAAH!
THE VESUVIUS BATH!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF..
!!
THE COLORING HAS WORN OFF, AND IT SEEMS RATHER SHABBY...
...NO... WAIT, THIS IS NOT THE SAME.









MIRROR: MATSUDA BARBER

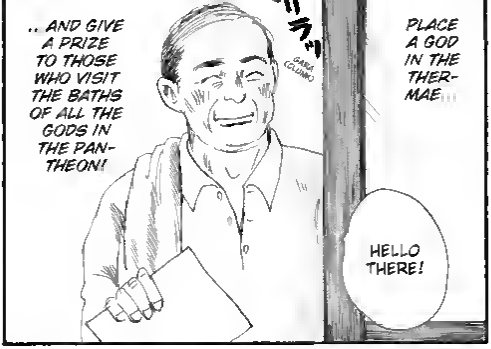
A BOY WITH WINGS...?
IS THAT... AMOR?
しょぼぼぼぼ
しょぼぼぼぼ
しょぼぼぼぼ
しょぼぼぼぼ
GARA (CLUNK)
ガラ
(WOBBLE)
THESE FLAT-FACES HAVE TAKEN MUCH INFLUENCE FROM ROME...
FIRST THE PAINTING OF VESUVIUS AND NAPLES, NOW AMOR
...ONLY THE VERY AGED WILL VISIT AN OLD AND WORN-DOWN THERMAE LIKE THIS...
EVEN IN THIS WORLD...

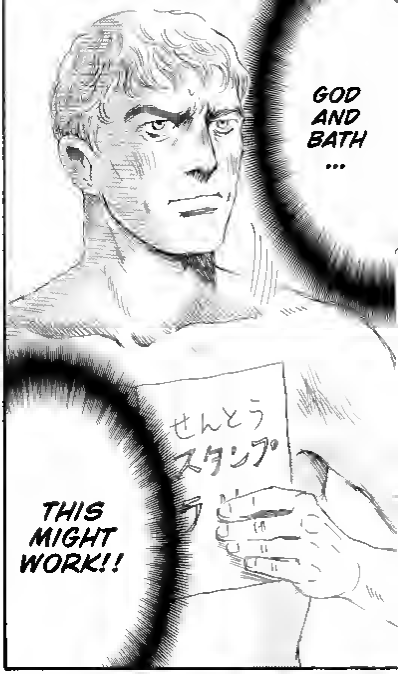
...DIRECTLY TO ROME AND HER BATHING ECONOMY...
IT SEEMS THAT I HAVE INTRODUCED EVEN THE PROBLEMS OF THE FLAT-FACED WORLD...
.....
HYA HA HA HA!
...THEN ITS CONTINUED SURVIVAL MUST BE IN DOUBT...
IF THIS THERMAE IS NOT RUN BY THEIR EMPEROR...
じゃば～
SARIA CHIJIWA
PERHAPS THE YOUNGER ONES HAVE NO INTEREST IN ONE SUCH AS THIS...
THE FLAT-FACES DO HAVE A WIDE VARIETY OF BATHS...
IS THAT A CHILD'S VOICE!?
KYA HA HA HA HA HA!
HERE WE GO! PUT ONE STAMP RIGHT HERE!!
HAPPY
STAMP! STAMP!
SARIA CHIJIWA
ガラ

...SO EXCITED ABOUT...?
WHAT IS THAT YOUNG BOY...
.....
GO ON, TSUYOSHI! GET A STAMP FROM THE NICE LADY!
THAT'LL COMPLETE YOUR BATH STAMP BOOKLET!
BOOK: BATH STAMP RALLY
I'VE STILL GOT QUITE A FEW LEFT TO VISIT...
I'VE GONE TO ALL THESE BATHS WITH MY GRANDSON HERE!
HERE, STAMP IT!!
HERE WE GO...
I'LL GIVE YOU A NICE, BIG EBISU-SAMA STAMP...
THE BOY WON'T LET ME SIT BACK ON MY HEELS, EVEN WHEN I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING, HA-HA.
NO WONDER YOU'VE DONE THEM ALL! HA-HA-HA!
OH, WITH YOUR GRAND-SON...? I'M SO JEALOUS...
AND CON-GRATS!

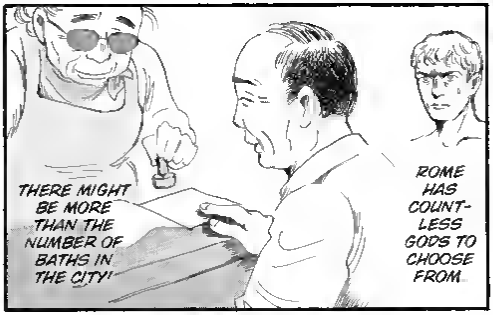
IT'S AN ADULT SMALL
AND HERE'S A SPECIAL T-SHIRT SHOWING EVERYONE YOU'RE A BATH MASTER!
YAAAY!
YIPEEEE!
I'M THE CHAMPION OF BATHS!!
せんとう
BOOK: BATH STAMP RALLY
A TUNIC? WHAT'S WRITTEN ON IT?
IT'S SO BAGGY!
YAAY!
銭湯命人
HEE HA HA HA!
THIS SHIRT IS REALLY BIG!!
LOOK, GRAND-PA!
SHIRT: BATHHOUSE EXPERT
PERA (FLIP)
28 29 30
32 33 34
37 38
42
46
IF YA VISIT ALL THE PUBLIC BATHHOUSES ON THE LIST, YOU GET A SHIRT LIKE THAT ONE.
LOOK!! THEY JUST FILLED THIS STAMP BOOK.
.....
OH!! THIS FOREIGNER-SAN IS WONDERING WHAT'S GOING ON! HA-HA-HA!

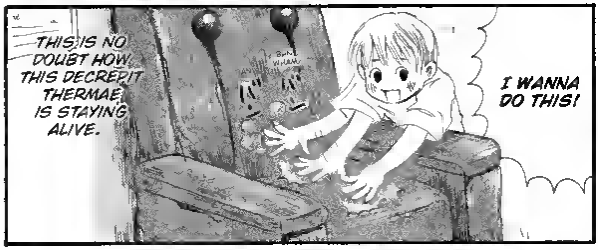
THIS BATH TAKES ITS NAME FROM THE GOD, EBISU
HERE'S THE EBISU-SAN STAMP!
HERE, RIGHT HERE!
WHAT IS THIS...?
...?
A LARA-RIUM!?
IS THAT A GOD OF THE FLAT-FACES!?
せんとう
スタンプ
HE IS QUITE FLESHY...
PERHAPS THIS BATH IS MEANT TO WORSHIP THIS GOD.
...THIS SYMBOL LOOKS LIKE THE FACE OF THAT GOD...
...
DOES THIS MEAN THESE FLAT-FACES WORSHIP MANY GODS AS WELL!?
I SAW THE ROMAN AMOR IN THE BATH...
*IN THE 1ST CENTURY OF HADRIAN, THE ONLY MAJOR MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS WERE JUDAISM AND THE BRAND-NEW CHRISTIANITY.


.. AND GIVE A PRIZE TO THOSE WHO VISIT THE BATHS OF ALL THE GODS IN THE PANTHEON!
GARA (CLUNK)
PLACE A GOD IN THE THERMAE...
HELLO THERE!

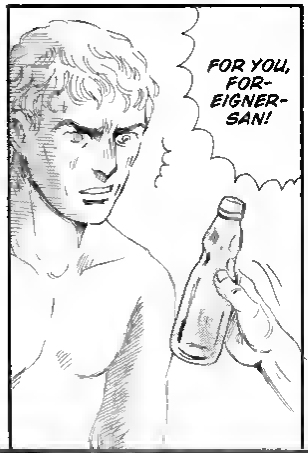


BOOK: BATH STAMP RALLY





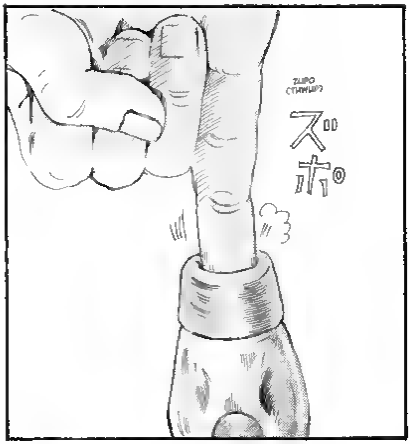
SIGN: FOR YOUR HEALTH

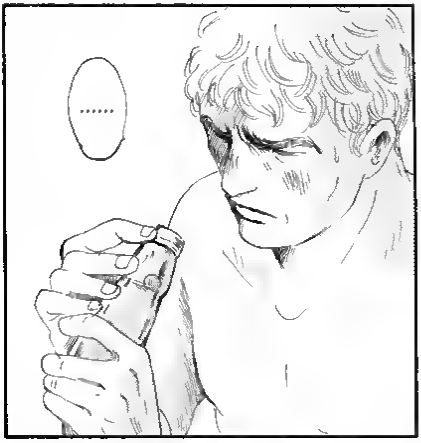


ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE FRESH OUTTA THE BATH!!
IT'S RAMUNE! NICE AND TASTY!
.. ...
DON'T HOLD BACK! CELEBRATE WITH US!
PEEK (PEEK)
?!
GU (PUSHU)
WHA—
WHAT IS THIS!?
SHUWAWA (BUBBLES)
KORORO (CLUNK)
HUH ...?

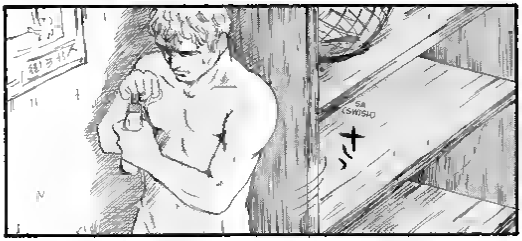
HA-HA-HA... I SUPPOSE YA DON'T KNOW HOW TO WORK IT!
HERE, THIS ONE'S ALREADY OPEN.
IT'S A BEVER-AGE!!
GOKU (GULP)
GOKU
DRINK UP!
.....
THE STONE IS BLOCKING THE LIQUID!!
KU (GULP)
KUN (GRUFF)
KUN
HOLD IT LEVEL!
LIKE THIS!
YA GOTTA KEEP THE BALL STUCK DOWN IN THE HOLDER! HA-HA-HA!
BWA HA HA HA

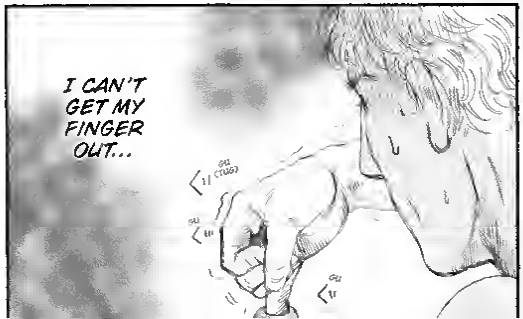
PWAAH!
...LIKE THIS?
TASTES GOOD, DON'T IT?
WELL? HOW DO YOU LIKE YER RAMUNE!?
HA HA!
THATTA BOY!
BRRD...
SO CRISP!
WHAT A BEVER-AGE!!
WHAT A CONTAIN-ER!!
SO REFRESH-ING!!


ZUPO
СТИНДЗ
ズポ


……

BASHASHA
SINEAIO
さんんん
WA
HA
HA
HA!


SA
SWISHO
ハン


I CAN'T
GET MY
FINGER
OUT...
GU
СТИДЗ
GU
GU

I KNOW!! I'LL SOAK IT IN THE WATER!
GARA (CLANK)
スタスタスタスタスタ
SUTA (TAP)
SUTA
SUTA
SUTA
SUTA
GOSHI (RUB)
GOSHI
つるり
TSURURI (SLIP)
じゃぶーん
JABUN (SPLASH)
BASHAAA (CRASH)
!?

AH!
DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD ON THE CORNER OF THE BATH!?
LUCIUS! SNAP OUT OF IT, LUCIUS!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, ENGINEER LUCIUS!?
I'M JUST FINE!
.....
GABARI (LURCH)

I KNOW HOW TO SAVE THE THERMAE OF ROME!!
ENTRY COSTS ONE AS
OF COURSE. I ALSO HAVE THIS...
WHICH SPOT DO YOU STAMP?
THIS ONE.
I'LL STAMP IT RIGHT HERE
EXCELLENT! MY VERY FIRST STAMP!

THEY HAD ALL THE PRETTIEST WOMEN YOU COULD HOPE TO SEE WORKING THERE...
LAST TIME I WENT TO THE THERMAE OF VENUS. LET ME TELL YOU, THAT WAS WORTH IT! HEE-HEE!
ENJOY.
THANKS!
I SHOULD VISIT AGAIN SOON
THIS IS THE THERMAE OF APOLLO AND BACCHUS, SO THERE IS FREE WINE OFFERED INSIDE...
HERE YOU ARE! CONGRATU-LATIONS!
AHH, THE OLD BATHS ARE THE BEST ONES.
THE ONE IN TRASTEVERE? I HEAR IT REALLY WORKS
I HEARD YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE WITH YOUR WIFE. ABOUT TIME TO VISIT THE PRIAPUS BATH, YOU THINK?
HERE IS YOUR CERTIFIED "MASTER OF BATHS" TUNIC.
FINALLY, THIS OLD FREEDMAN HAS A BIT OF LUCK!!
I'VE DONE IT!!
YESSSS!!

THE GOOD OLD DAYS ARE BACK, FUSCUS...
LONG LIVE ME!!
I'M GOING TO WEAR THIS AND SHOW IT OFF AROUND TOWN!
WA HA HA!
DOCTUS ARTE THERMARUM
HE'S JUST AS AMAZING AS THE RUMORS SAY
LUCIUS MODESTUS..
WHAT IS THIS!?
GLASSWORKING DISTRICT

WHAT PROVINCE DID THIS COME FROM?
WHO HAS THE GLASS MASTERY TO CRAFT SUCH PERFECT BOTTLES...?
HOW IS THERE A MARBLE INSIDE THE BOTTLE...?
NOT ONLY THAT, IT ACTS AS A SEAL FOR THE BOTTLE, AND ONE CAN ONLY DRINK THE LIQUID INSIDE BY PUSHING IT DOWN INTO THE BOTTLE
I CANNOT SAY.
PLEASE, JUST FIGURE OUT HOW TO RE-CREATE THAT BOTTLE!
FOR THE SAKE OF ROME!!
DON'T!
MAY I TAKE THE MARBLE OUT TO INSPECT IT...?
YOUR FINGER WILL GET STUCK, AND THEN YOU'LL REALLY BE IN TROUBLE!
I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO DISAPPEAR NOW, LUCIUS MODESTUS.

In ancient Rome, there were two types of thermae: baths run by the state, and baths run by individuals. In Japan there are hot springs run by local municipalities and hot springs run by private owners, so it's much the same. Many of the thermae run by individuals would be passed down through the generations, and since few wealthy elites were likely to invest large sums of money into operating thermae, most of the baths were fairly cramped and humble.

In the early second century AD, when Hadrian lived, there were eleven large thermae within the city of Rome alone (most of them publicly owned and built by the emperor), and over a thousand small private thermae. The only reason so many thermae could exist in Rome was due to their advanced system of aqueducts which kept the city supplied with a vast amount of water from the surrounding area. The usage of this water carried a fee for anything other than the ever-present public fountains (trickling out water from large reservoirs for use in everyday life). The large public thermae were built as gifts to the people from the emperor, so the usage cost was all on the throne.

At any rate, having fresh water in your house in Rome required some level of affluence. It was possible to "steal" water by surreptitiously running it into your house, but there was a hefty fine if you were caught. If you were running a thermae, you naturally used many times the amount of water as a normal home, so it's hard not to imagine that unless a thermae was wildly popular, it was a tricky task to stay in the black.

Inside a hammam in Aleppo, Syria. I think the smaller baths of ancient Rome were much like this. (Aleppo, Syria)

Inside a thermae. (Ercolano, Italy)

Japan's older public bathhouses are disappearing left and right. The baths that have survived are performing massive renovations on their interiors in an attempt to keep up with the times and stay alive. It does seem like a very sad state of affairs, but there are still people in Japan who love the old ways and are working hard to preserve the good old-fashioned bathhouse.

I'm certain that even in Rome, there were people who loved the small, quiet, privately-owned thermae. Perhaps they too, like the fans of Japan's traditional bathhouses, worked hard to preserve what they loved.

By the way, when I was three years old, I once sank to the bottom of a tub at a bathhouse, and nobody in my family noticed for a little while. Despite my young age at the time, somehow I vividly remember the swaying of the surface as I sank face-up; the pale flesh of the women bathing near me, who had failed to notice me, from the neck on down; and the laughter that erupted when I was finally pulled up to the fresh air. I can't help but get the feeling that my oldest memory, that of being submerged in the water of a public bath, has some connection to me now as I draw *Thermae Romae* for a living.

Thank you, bathhouse! Please continue to exist in the same form you have always taken.

A tourist's stamp sheet, from the Tokyo Public Bath Owners' Union.

Inside a Japanese bathhouse

Flyers for movie theaters and other businesses, pasted inside the bathhouse

With effort after effort, Lucius has worked to advance the state of bathing!! Lucius worked too hard for his own good!! After all of his efforts, Lucius's life is under attack!! Watch out, Lucius!!

TRANSLATION NOTES

TITLE
Thermae The Latin term for "bath." In usage it corresponds to the large public bathhouses shown in the manga while individual baths found in the homes of the rich and powerful were called *balneae*

JAPANESE HONORIFICS
no honorific Indicates familiarity or closeness. It used without permission or reason addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult
-san The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. It a situation calls for politeness this is the fail-safe honorific
-sama Conveys great respect. may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee

PAGE 5
Insulae The ancient Roman version of apartment buildings (singular *insula*). Much of Rome's lower-class plebian population lived in insulae as single-family homes were only affordable for the upper crust of Rome

PAGE 16
Foreigner The Japanese word used here is "*gaijin*." Attitudes have shifted regarding the usage of *gaijin* as many non-Japanese living in Japan have lobbied for more use of the more complete and polite *gaikokujin* ("foreign country person"). This is because *gaijin* can in many cases be considered a pejorative or exclusive term. In *Thermae Romae* Lucius is greeted with "Gaijin-san" in most of his Japanese encounters which is indicative of the friendly treatment his "hosts" give him

PAGE 21
It's Tough Being a Man A very long and popular film series (*Otoko wa Tsurai Yo*) from the late 1960s to the mid-90s spanning nearly fifty full length features. Each film follows the same general premise Tora-san a wandering salesman visits a new area of Japan to peddle his wares falls in love with a beautiful woman at his latest stop and then attempts—and fails—to woo her. As a fond and ever present staple in theaters the series is something like movie comfort food for Japan

PAGE 22
Pachinko A pinball-like game that serves as a gambling surrogate in Japan. Unlike traditional pinball players play to win more balls that are dispensed like coins at a slot machine and these balls can be redeemed for chintzy prizes that are meant to be sold back to a separate business nearby (which is run by the pachinko parlor) for cash. Actual gambling is illegal in Japan but due to pachinko's traditional popularity and its strong connections to organized crime in Japan it exists in a gray area that is tolerated by the authorities

PAGE 41
Consul A high magistrate of the Roman Empire. The two elected consuls presided over the Senate for one year during the Republic era but after Rome shifted to an empire consuls became more honorary as most of their powers over the Senate were assumed by the emperor instead

PAGE 42
Campania A Roman *regio* (region) in southern Italy centered around the city of Naples. Campania features Mt. Vesuvius which famously erupted in 79 AD and destroyed the city of Pompeii

PAGE 47
Aqua Augusta A Roman aqueduct that ran through Campania and supplied water to several cities in the region including Naples and Pompeii

PAGE 57
Yukata A lighter summer version of the traditional kimono made of lighter cotton with shorter sleeves. *Yukata* are almost always worn after a dip in a hot spring or a bath at traditional *ryokan* inns. In fact the word "*yukata*" means "bathing clothes."

PAGE 60
Uncia An ancient Roman unit of length that corresponds to an inch, roughly

PAGE 62
Onsen tamago "Hot spring eggs." Many of Japan's hot springs sit at just around 160 degrees Fahrenheit which is just the right temperature to slow-cook an egg. When done right the egg white has a creamy consistency while the yolk is firm but still round

PAGE 79
Nobilis During the Roman Empire the nobilies (singular nobilis) were the social class consisting of the descendents of Roman Republic consuls. As the word suggests this elite birthright was later transformed into the concept of "nobility."

PAGE 98
Imperator A Latin title meaning "conqueror" one of many that were reserved exclusively for the ruler of the empire—in fact, it serves as the basis for the English word "emperor."

PAGE 108
Centurion The commander of a century or company of soldiers. Despite the name a century did not necessarily contain 100 men but sometimes less and sometimes more depending on the time period in Roman history. In modern terms a centurion would roughly correspond to a middle grade military officer

PAGE 115
Apollodorus A Greek architect and siege weapon designer of Syrian descent and a favorite of Emperor Trajan who was predecessor to Hadrian. In real life Apollodorus mocked Hadrian's attempts at dabbling in architecture and was eventually banished and executed

PAGE 141
Comic Beam The monthly magazine where chapters of *Thermae Romae* are serialized in Japan

PAGE 144
Bar Kokhba Revolt. A major Jewish revolt and the final Jewish-Roman war waged from 132-136 AD. Coming at the end of a series of Jewish rebellions against their Roman conquerers this revolt was met with powerful force by the Roman military which brutally crushed the resistance. The aftermath of this war led to the creation of the Jewish diaspora as most Jews were exiled from Judea and eventually brought about the rise of Christianity as a religion separate from Judaism

Sextus Julius Severus A celebrated and skillful Roman general who originally served in Rome's territory in what is now Great Britain (Britannia) but was brought to Judea to help quell the Bar Kokhba revolt.

PAGE 145
Aelia Capitolina A colony built on the ruins of Jerusalem by Hadrian originally meant to be a gift to the Jewish people. Designed to combine the culture of the Romans (and specifically their gods) with the local Jewish culture this plan eventually met with the Bar Kokhba revolt to tragic results

PAGE 146
Legion The main unit of the Roman army consisting of up to 5,000 soldiers who were then arranged in smaller units such as cohorts and centuries. The legion was such a successful and long lasting military structure that various historical examples of acting legions are known and traced to their semi-permanent bases around the Roman Empire

PAGE 156
Tohoku The northeastern region (from which it gets its name) of Honshu the main island of Japan. Tohoku is known for its remote and wild beauty and relatively sparse and rural culture
Sadly it is most recently known for the terrible earthquake centered off the eastern coast of Honshu that devastated much of its coastline and led to nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in March 2011

PAGE 160
Yakult A popular Japanese beverage made by adding yogurt cultures to milk then flavored with a variety of popular flavors typically fruit

PAGE 165
Garum A fermented fish sauce that was wildly popular and widely used in Roman cuisine. Fish intestines were salted and left in the sun for several months to brew with select herbs added for particular flavors depending on the batch. Garum was also drunk watered-down as a cure-all for ailments and used for cosmetic purposes such as hair removal and skin care

PAGE 166
Doburoku A homemade bootleg version of sake. Typical *doburoku* production is incredibly simple but understandably vulnerable to spoilage and wide swings in quality

PAGE 176
Sunamushi-buro Literally "sand-steam bath." this form of relaxation therapy offered at some hot springs in Japan involves being buried in hot volcanic sand up to your face. This is said to improve circulation and remove impurities from the body

PAGE 177
Yoshiharu Tsuge An influential manga artist known for surreal short stories published in the legendary avant-garde magazine *Garo* in the 1960s. His collection *Nejishiki* (*Screw Style*) is often heralded as one of the great counter-cultural tomes in a period where experimentation brought about new possibilities for what had been up to that point, a children's medium

PAGE 194
Go-shintai A "sacred body." In shrines dedicated to one of Japan's many Shinto gods the *go-shintai* is an object in which the god can reside for the purpose of worship. This often takes the form of swords mirrors jewels rocks and so on. A *go-shintai* is not considered to actually be the god merely a repository in which it can manifest

PAGE 204
Obaba A form of the word *baba* which means "old woman." In most everyday cases *baba* is an insult along the lines of "hag" or "old bat," but in more rural and traditional areas such as the village represented here the *baba* (or more polite *obaba* in this case) is more like the village elder the wise women who is looked to with respect

PAGE 224
Auxiliaries Roman military forces made up of non-citizens living within the

boundaries of the Roman empire mostly residents of territories outside of the Italian peninsula that had been conquered through military means After twenty five years of military service an *auxilia* and his descendents were granted Roman citizenship

PAGE 230
Manju A steamed dumpling bun with sweet bean paste inside *Manju* are often sold outside hot springs with the name hot spring logo stamped onto them Unlike hot spring eggs these are not actually boiled in the hot spring water but are more like souvenirs to buy and bring back to family and co-workers as is expected when one travels out of town

PAGE 250
Legio VII Gemina A historical Roman legion meaning "Seventh Twin Legion " Created in 69 AD Legio VII Gemina is known to have served in Pannonia (around the modern-day border between Hungary and Austria) and eventually garrisoned in Hispania Tarraconensis in northern Spain The legion was at one point combined with one of the German legions which might explain where these Germanic gentlemen came from

PAGE 272
Anio Novus Aqueduct Built in the first century AD the Anio Novus Aqueduct was the highest in elevation of all the aqueducts serving Rome Despite being the highest-volume aqueduct in Rome the water supplied was turbid and of poor quality

PAGE 288
Circus Maximus The first and largest of Rome's great stadiums Unlike the circular Colosseum and its gladiatorial battles the Circus Maximus was elongated for chariot races parades and festivals Unfortunately the building was cannibalized for stone after it fell out of use in the sixth century AD and almost none of it remains today

PAGE 303
Equestrian order A rank of elite knights that formed a sort of nobility in the Roman Empire Equestrians were a powerful political force more numerous than senators and typically as the name suggests having military leadership experience Marcus Aurelius's enrollment in the knighthood of such a young age came on the orders of Hadrian as a means of advancing his elite education

Latin Festival (*Feriae Latinae*) One of the most ancient Roman festivals supposedly predating the founding of Rome by Romulus and Remus The Latin Festival was celebrated by those cities and villages in the Latium region of central Italy around Rome that formed the center of Roman culture

PAGE 310
Laocoon A Trojan priest of Poseidon who according to the *Aeneid* warned that the Trojan Horse sent by the Greeks was likely a trap The Trojans of course did not heed his warnings and he was strangled by two serpents sent by one of the gods The image of Laocoön and his sons being strangled by the snakes has been the inspiration for many sculptures including a very famous one now on display in the Vatican

PAGE 327
Praetor A magistrate position in the Roman Republic similar to a judge After the transition to the Roman Empire however praetors become less judicial in manner and more administrative There were commonly a dozen or so praetors each overseeing the administration of a certain area such as child custody fiscal matters trusts etc

PAGE 330
Terme The modern Italian word for "bath" clearly derived from the Latin thermae

PAGE 353
Ebisu One of the Seven Gods of Fortune commonly worshipped in Japan Ebisu is the god of luck fishermen and the good health of children He is recognized by his chubby face elongated earlobes fishing rod and wide smile

Lararium A household shrine in ancient Roman homes that housed the family's god of protection and fortune known as a *lar familiaris*

PAGE 355
Ramune A lemon lime soft drink sold in special glass bottles containing a marble that is pushed into the bottle when opening it The marble is then held in the neck of the bottle by its unique shape and can block the flow of the liquid if not maneuvered properly Ramune is a common summertime drink in Japan particularly around festivals

PAGE 362
Freedman A former slave in the Roman Empire could gain freedom rather easily In comparison to almost every other historical example of the practice In fact, up to 5% of the Roman population was freed slaves Slaves were freed for a variety of reasons such as obtaining an education being named free men in their masters wills and buying their freedom out of their wages

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